Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you pay attention to where your food comes from?

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INSIDE

Young Torero

He's a tiny torero, a bullfighter with a baby face.

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OFW Power

From a few thousands to more than five million–such is the phenomenal growth of the number of overseas Filipino workers.

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Conscious

Acid-tongued fashion critic Mr. Blackwell regains consciousness in a hospital.

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Fund, DoF at impasse on proportionate pensions. **PAGE 3**

Most alien workers successful in seeking transfer. **PAGE 5**

Sub leaked radioactive water on Saipan

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

In this file photo, sailors and Sea Bridge crew secure the USS *Houston* (SSN-713) as it docks at the Saipan harbor in December 2007. The 362 -foot-long nuclear-powered attack submarine is homeported in Apra Harbor, Guam and carries 139 crew.

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The U.S. Navy has informed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial this week that the nuclear-powered submarine USS *Houston* leaked small amounts of radioactive water while docked on Saipan for four days in December 2007.

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High Court voids order in Torres lawsuit vs governor

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

In a unanimous decision, the Commonwealth Supreme Court said there was insufficient evidence that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Rep. Stanley T. McGinnis Torres reached an agreement concerning Fitial's reprogramming of funds to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Torres

Fitial

In a statement issued yesterday, the High Court voided an order by the Commonwealth Superior Court erroneously imposing a settlement between Fitial and Torres.

After Fitial declared a state of emergency and moved funds from a variety of sources, including individual legislator's accounts, to CUC, Torres sued to have his money returned to him.

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Workers to pursue class suit over bonds

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Alien workers are poised to file a lawsuit against the CNMI Department of Labor in a bid to compel it to enforce scores of administrative orders directing companies to pay back wages owed them through insurance bond claims.

Tantiado

Labor activist Irene Tantiado, who stepped down from her post as the president of the United Coalition of Workers earlier this week, is organizing the suit with the aid of an attorney, she said in an interview Friday.

"I'm seeing some real hope that we can help these workers," Tantiado said, adding that she plans to gather potential plaintiffs for the suit in a meeting

See WORKERS on Page 4

Local

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Representatives of different local agencies and public and private employers gather for a photo with Employee Outreach Director Don Clark, Capt. Josephine Blas, public affairs director for the Guam-CNMI Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee and other ESGR officials during the ESGR's "Briefing with the Boss" gathering at the Acuzena room of the Fiesta Resort and Spa in Garapan yesterday.

Employers urged: Support NMI's deployed members

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Employers must show their support for deployed members of the National Guard and Reserve by pledging to the men and women that their jobs will be waiting for them when they complete their service, an official from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve said Friday during a luncheon.

Don Clark, Employee Outreach Director, informed a room of about 70 local employers about the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, or USERRA.

The Act prohibits discrimination against those who serve or have served voluntarily or involuntarily.

"We can all imagine what it's like to be deployed and come back and be told you no longer have that position," he said. "It's essentially an anti-discrimination law."

The Act applies to federal, state and local governments, and private employers regardless of size.

There are six criteria that must be met by the employee:

1. Must be an employee, but it does not need to be a permanent or regular job
2. Must give prior notice
3. Must be leaving for military service
4. Service must not exceed five years (exemptions: reserve training, involuntary call-up, volunteer for critical mission, initial active service obligation, war)
5. Must be honorably discharged
6. Must return within legally prescribed time

During the luncheon, 33 representatives from various agencies and businesses were recognized for their commitment to men and women of the National Guard and Reserve.

Some of the agencies and businesses represented were:

- Commonwealth Ports Authority
- Commonwealth Utilities Corp.
- Department of Public Safety
- Department of Public Safety-fire division
- Department of Public Safety-police division
- Joeten Motors
- Public Schools System
- Oleai Elementary

Native medicine summit today

The Saipan and Northern Islands mayors' offices and the Office of Aging are hosting a native medicine summit today in hopes of passing down the methods to younger generations.

"The mayors were asked to be the main sponsors because of their role in the local community level," Tony Benavente, spokesman for the Saipan Mayor's Office, said. "They wanted the mayor to strongly encourage the local people, the natives, to start learning more about traditional healing and traditional medicine with the hope of passing it on down with younger generation."

Native Healers will perform presentations, demonstrations and panel discussions.

The summit is funded in part by a grant from the Administration for Native Americans and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The event will take place from 8:30am to 4:30pm at the Managmko Center/Office of Aging.

Call 322-0278 for more information. (***Kristi Eaton***)

Saipan Tribune
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Fund, DoF at impasse on proportionate pensions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

No agreement was reached yesterday among members of the House of Representatives' special committee, NMI Retirement Fund, and the Department of Finance on a bill that would allow the Fund to pay new retirees less than their full pension.

During the two-hour meeting at the House's chamber, members of the House's special committee raised their concerns about the bill, while the Retirement Fund's board of trustees also registered their concerns about their fiduciary duty.

The Fund's board also noted, among other things, that they keep withdrawing funds to pay for pensions, but not much is going back.

Except for Rep. Ralph Anthony Torres, who is off-island, all special committee members attended the meeting. Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, Fund board chair Juan T. Guerrero, Fund administrator Mark Aguon, and Fund board members were also present.

Special committee head Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that, although no concrete decision was made, the Fund officials intimated that they want to discuss the issue during their board meeting Thursday next week.

Deleon Guerrero said Fund officials are going to call in their experts or consultants to discuss the concerns that were raised in yesterday's meeting.

Deleon Guerrero

"We will be meeting, I believe, Friday next week after the board meeting. And hopefully then we can come with some kind of agreement," the vice speaker said.

He said they are trying to look for ways on how they can allow Fund members to receive their full pension benefits while at the same time making sure the Fund is also paid.

Deleon Guerrero said they want to ensure that the employer retirement contributions for applicants who want to retire are also paid.

"We did not reach an agreement. But I think we are now looking for the mechanisms—whether legislative or other alternatives—where we can satisfy the concerns, both on the part of the pensioners and on the part of the program," he said.

Senate Bill 16-36 proposes to amend Public Law 15-61, which specifically prohibits the Fund from applying the proportionate pension scheme.

The bill was referred to the House, which deliberated on the floor but did not reach a consensus to either pass, kill, or amend it.

This prompted House Speaker Arnold Palacios to create the special committee headed by Deleon Guerrero. The members include Reps. Oscar Babauta, Justo Quitugua, Heinz Hofschneider, and Ralph Torres.

The special committee was given 15 days to report back to the House.

Pengelinan denied appeal

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has denied John S. Pangelinan's petition for a writ of *coram nobis*, commonly translated as "error before us."

In July, the U.S. Court of Appeals reversed the U.S. District Court for the NMI's decision not to entertain the merits of "vexatious litigant" Pangelinan's motion that challenged his detention in Seattle, Washington.

In his latest decision, Judge David A. Wiseman denied Pangelinan a certificate of appealability.

"Should petitioner wish to pursue this matter further, he must petition for a certificate of appealability," Wiseman wrote in his decision.

According to court records, in September 2006 the federal court convicted Pangelinan of two counts of obstruction of a court order following a jury trial in connection with his letters to the editor published in local newspapers.

In January 2007, the federal court sentenced Pangelinan to one year in jail. In addition, he was sentenced to supervised release for one year following the completion of his jail term.

Pangelinan was then detained at the Federal Bureau of Prisons near Seattle, Washington. He appealed his conviction to the 9th Circuit.

While his scheduled release from jail was Sept. 16, 2007, he remained physically incarcerated because he refused to execute certain documents relating to the payments of fines and supervised release as mandated by the federal court in its sentencing order.

On Oct. 11, 2007, the 9th Circuit reversed the conviction on one count and affirmed the conviction on the second count.

While still in federal prison on Oct. 25, 2007 Pangelinan challenged his detention by filing his petition to vacate, set aside, or correct his criminal sentence.

Four days later, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman denied as moot Pangelinan's motion because he was no longer "in custody" for "reasons directly related to his criminal sentence."

On Nov. 23, 2007, Pangelinan filed a second petition. At the time, he remained incarcerated at the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

On Dec. 3, 2007, Wiseman dismissed the second appeal on the grounds that this was a second or successive petition.

Pangelinan, through court-appointed counsel Steven P. Pixley, appealed Wiseman's decisions to the 9th Circuit. Pixley asked the court to reverse the judge's dismissal of his client's habeas corpus petitions.

The counsel raised the issue of whether the federal court erred when it declined to entertain the merits of Pangelinan's motion on grounds that he was no longer in custody.

The other issue was whether the federal court erred when it construed and dismissed Pangelinan's second appeal as an unauthorized or successive motion.

On Jan. 28, 2008, the 9th Circuit granted Pangelinan's certificate of appealability with respect to the issues he presented.

Pangelinan was ultimately released from federal prison in January 2008.

In Pangelinan's opening brief filed in April 2008, Pixley asserted that his client was in custody when the federal court denied his first habeas corpus petition.

Pixley said his client's active prison term may have expired when he filed his petition but he remained incarcerated as a direct result of the criminal sentence imposed by the federal court.

"Indeed, Pangelinan remained physically incarcerated and he was subject to supervised release pursuant to the terms and conditions of the District Court sentence," the lawyer said, adding that his client was therefore a "prisoner in custody" within the meaning of the habeas corpus statute.

With respect to the second petition, Pixley said the district court should not have held that Pangelinan's Nov. 23, 2007, filing was a second or successive habeas corpus petition.

"A challenge to the District Court's previous dismissal should not be deemed a 'second or successive' petition," Pixley added. ***(With Ferdie de la Torre)***

Asahi Broadcasting films on Saipan

Japan's Asahi Broadcasting Company recently visited Saipan to film a comedy titled "*Ikemen Five"* (The Five Handsome Men). The program is often filmed overseas to feature different aspects of local culture and food.

While on Saipan, the cast and crew played golf, visited beaches and toured Garapan. The program will air on Sept. 28. A crew of 20 accompanied them.

Asahi Broadcasting airs in 587,655 households in Japan. The exposure value of the recent filming is $1,833,333.

Fiesta Resort & Spa, Coral Ocean Point, Sea Venture, 2008 Miss Marianas Teen Ariel St. Claire, Team Atuwasi Soft Ball team, Team Tasi for the dancers, Joeten and HIS all participated in and contributed to the endeavor.

"We would like to thank Asahi Broadcasting for choosing Saipan as its featured destination," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "As our Japan arrivals continue to rise, having constant exposure in Japan will be vital to the success of our tourism industry." ***(MVA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The crew and comedian shooting on location on Saipan.

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08-040	Instructor, Psychology	Until Filled
08-041	Chief Financial Administrative Service Officer	Until Filled
08-043	Instructor, Languages & Humanities	Until Filled
08-045	Academic Librarian	Until Filled
08-047	Agriculture Extension Specialist (Food Science)	8/14/08
08-048	Instructor, Health & PE	8/15/08
08-049	Counselor, Student Support Services (Fed)	8/15/08
08-050	Instructor/Coordinator for Criminal Justice	8/19/08
08-051	Instructor, Nursing (2 positions)	8/19/08

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Lawmakers question Labor exec's anti-worker bias

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Kaipat

Salas

Sablan

In a letter to the CNMI Department of Labor released Friday, Reps. Tina Sablan (I-Saipan) and Edward Salas (R-Saipan) point to a host of recent statements by Deputy Labor Secretary Cinta Kaipat that they say suggest a strong bias against foreign workers exists within the department.

The letter, sent to Labor Secretary Gil San Nicolas, addresses a host of issues related to the department's regulation of the CNMI's workforce, airing concerns over whether its procedures abide by due process rules, the status of foreign workers whose children have disabilities and problems linked to unpaid administrative orders, among other topics.

Key among those concerns are the contents of an April memorandum Kaipat penned and a letter she sent to the editor of the *Saipan Tribune* that the House lawmakers say "indicate a strong prevailing bias against foreign national workers."

Kaipat in the April 28 memorandum, Salas and Sablan note in the letter, suggested that foreign workers often lie about their employment to remain in the CNMI and engage in fraud.

"Just because a person has not been apprehended in such a fraud does not mean that this person has added anything to the community," Kaipat wrote.

In addition, the lawmakers point to a May 26 letter Kaipat sent to the *Tribune* that posits foreign workers can sometimes get away with lying to Labor officials because their claims are often uncontested.

"As you know, workers and their advocates understand that if an employer does not show up, there will be no one to contest their claims and they can make almost any untrue assertion without fear of contradiction," Kaipat's letter said.

Salas and Sablan in their letter to Labor ask San Nicolas to clarify whether Kaipat's comments represent the department's official position. Moreover, they ask the department to answer whether Kaipat's views on foreign workers impact her ability to do her job and ask for a detailed description of her duties.

"The deputy secretary's statements imply that foreign national workers are generally and as a matter of course presumed guilty of fraud until proven innocent," the lawmakers' letter says. "Assuming that the sentiments of [Kaipat] reflect the official views of the department, we are concerned that such obvious bias may seriously affect the ability of the department to fairly and impartially adjudicate labor cases and respect the due process rights of all workers."

Kaipat could not be reached for comment on the letter at press time after several attempts to contact her proved unsuccessful.

The lawmakers' letter asks Labor to respond within 10 days.

A. Samoa OKs permit for fiber optic cable

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—American Samoa's Project Notification Review System Board has approved a land use permit for the undersea fiber optic project.

The board reviewed the environmental impact of the project at a meeting yesterday and gave approval with conditions.

The board requires the cable developer keep local regulatory agencies informed of how the project progresses and how they are complying with requirements of federal agencies that have an interest in the area where the cable will be laid

The panel heard that the project is scheduled to come on line in March 2009.

Local construction company Samoa Maritime has been selected to lay the section of cable on land.

The undersea portion of the cable will be laid by an off island company.

Heavy bags offloaded on Solomons return flight

Pago Pago shopping spree tilts scale

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—More than half the luggage of the Solomon Islands delegation returning from the Festival of Pacific Arts in American Samoa was offloaded in Pago Pago, American Samoa and Nadi., Fiji.

The off loading was because of weight restrictions on the veteran OzJet Boeing 737-200 jet.

It made the plane almost four hours late arriving in Honiara. The 100-strong contingent finally arrived around 8.30 p.m. Sunday.

Government chartered the aircraft to fly the delegation to and from American Samoa for the two-week stay there for the festival.

The first lot of luggage was offloaded at Pago Pago International Airport. It included packed cases and containers.

Most of the delegates had extra luggage on the return flight because of shopping they had done in American Samoa.

The offloading was at the request of the captain. It delayed the flight's departure from American Samoa for about three hours. The flight then stopped at Nadi to refuel.

The captain then advised that more luggage had to be off loaded because of the extra weight of fuel that had to be taken on for the flight to Honiara.

Most of the delegation had only a little of their luggage with them upon arrival while others had none.

Arrangements are now being made to bring the luggage from Pago Pago and Nadi.

Some of the luggage offloaded in Nadi was expected to arrive yesterday on an Air Niugini/Solomon Airlines flight or today on an Air Pacific/Solomon Airlines flight.

But the arrival of luggage from Pago Pago is still uncertain. This is because this has to be transported to Apia in Samoa then on to Nadi before coming to Honiara.

Robert Au, head of the delegation, said he is working on arrangements to bring in all the luggage.

HIGH

From Page 1

During the course of proceedings, the two parties told the Superior Court that a settlement had been reached. The statement said that Torres drafted a proposed settlement agreement. Fitial did not sign this proposed agreement and stated that he never agreed to it.

In 2007, Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo ordered Fitial to transfer $33,872 to Torres' legislative account to settle the lawsuit, basing it on Torres' statement that Fitial had admitted a mistake in reprogramming the lawmakers' funds .

But Fitial, through the Attorney General's Office, filed a motion to recuse and amend the judgment because, he said, he never agreed to the settlement.

In a letter to House Speaker Oscar M. Babauta in May 2007, Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory said Torres inaccurately stated that Fitial "admitted that mistakes were made in the improper deduction of 18 percent of our funds in FY 2006, in order to cover the administration's mismanagement of CUC."

"That statement of Rep. Torres is totally unfounded," Gregory told Babauta.

In its unanimous decision, the Supreme Court held that there was insufficient evidence that both parties had agreed to the settlement and declared it void.

The High Court remanded the case to the Superior Court for further proceedings.

The Supreme Court opinion was written by Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, who was joined by Associate Justice John A. Manglona and Justice Pro Tem Timothy H. Bellas.

WORKERS

From Page 1

slated for Tuesday at American Memorial Park.

The CNMI Department of Labor is tasked with reviewing workers claims connected to unpaid wages and so-called "surety bonds"—a brand of insurance bonds that employers are required by law to purchase for foreign workers that pays them should the businesses where they work falter, Tantiado said. These bonds often go unpaid, she added, and workers who pursue payment of them have faced an array of bureaucratic obstacles.

Labor's decisions on the unpaid bonds are issued in the form of an administrative order, yet labor activists have said previously that it has ceased enforcing those orders, directing workers instead to pursue their claims in court. Tantiado said this stance violates the law.

"According to the law, Labor is supposed to enforce those orders," she said. "Labor has stopped doing that but that is part of their job."

The strategy for the lawsuit, she added, involves bringing together every worker with an administrative order issued by Labor related to an unpaid surety bond to seek a Supreme Court order directing the department to take enforcement action.

To take part in the suit, workers must have an administrative order issued by Labor that is not more than six years old, have a surety bond issued by an insurance company that is still in operation and not have any current criminal charges or be in any other "trouble," Tantiado said.

Responding to news of the pending suit, CNMI Attorney General Matt Gregory reserved comment until the litigation is filed, saying he had yet to see a complaint.

Charles Reyes, the governor's spokesman, said problems linked to unpaid surety bonds are "a long-standing issue" and noted that the Department of Commerce is generally charged with regulating insurers.

"I'm sure that we can work this out and if there's something that Labor must enforce, I'm sure they would," Reyes said. "We would like to resolve this before it gets to the point of a lawsuit."

SUB

From Page 1

The Navy initially said the sub was leaking since the beginning of 2008, but altered the timetable Thursday, saying it had been leaking for more than two years.

"[Fitial] was apprised of the situation," Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said Thursday. "Of course we are concerned."

The governor received a faxed report from the Navy, as well as a phone call from Rear Admiral William D. French, about the leak, Reyes said.

"We appreciate the military's response and candor in contacting the Governor's Office," he added.

The Navy first notified Japan on Aug. 1 that the USS *Houston* had leaked water containing small amounts of radiation when it was docked in Sasebo and Okinawa in March and April. The problem was discovered on July 17, when the Los Angeles-based fast track sub was docked in Hawaii. About a gallon of water had spilled onto a crew member when a fitting came loose. The water had previously come in contact with the reactor, but no radioactivity was detected on the sailor. Water from a valve was slowly dripping from the submarine's nuclear power plant, although the water did not make contact with the nuclear reactor.

The Navy recently released a chronology of the leak over the past two years. A total of less than 9.3 micro curies were leaked. Eight micro curies were released in Guam and .4 micro curies in Pearl Harbor, according to the Associated Press. A total of .605 micro curies was leaked at three ports in Japan. Small amounts of radiation were found in Singapore, Port Keland, Malaysia and Saipan.

The average amount of radioactivity in a smoke detector is about one micro curie, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

On Friday, Guam Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo, who requested a thorough review of the situation last week, said she would continue to ensure the safety of Guam residents and sailors.

"I have requested and will receive a more comprehensive briefing from the U.S. Department of Energy, which has shared oversight on the safe operation of the U.S. Navy's nuclear propulsion program," she said.

Bordallo said it is believed the small amount leaked did not harm the environment around Apra Harbor and did not pose a threat to Guam.

Reyes said the Governor's Office would wait for more information about the leak before seeking any additional investigation.

"We want to find out more information, and to what extent there was environmental damage, if any," he said.

Navy Commander Jeff Davis said the *Houston* is still in Hawaii being repaired and the reactor is turned off. Once the leak was discovered last month, the Navy provided detailed data to the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory—a government facility—to determine exactly how much radiation had leaked over the two year time period, Davis said.

The amount is so small, he said, that the Navy terms it a "weepage" rather than a leak.

The radiation leak has caused a stir in Japan where the continued presence of the U.S. military and its nuclear vessels draw complaints from residents about crime, noise and pollution linked to some 50,000 American servicemen based in the country. The presence of nuclear submarines is particularly sensitive, given that Japan is the only country the U.S. ever used atomic bombs against in the closing days of World War II.

"If we add all radiation leaked at every Japanese port, it would be still smaller than the amount of naturally occurring radioactivity found inside home smoke detectors," the Japanese foreign ministry said in a statement accompanying its release of the U.S. report. "Japan also has found no abnormality in its monitoring results during Houston's port calls since June 2006."

News of the incident also comes just weeks ahead of the arrival of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS *George Washington* to be based in Yokosuka, just south of Tokyo.

Davis said the problem would not affect the USS *George Washington*'s move.

"This goes to show the people of Japan and the government of Japan that they can be reassured that the United States Navy will be forthright in disclosing details about any inadvertent release of radioactivity, even when it is extremely small."

The *George Washington*'s arrival, originally set for August under a Japan-U.S. security alliance, was delayed until late September because of a fire aboard the vessel in May, another incident that has caused safety concerns in Japan. ***(With AP)***

Most alien workers successful in seeking transfer

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Most of the alien workers who sought administrative orders from the Department of Labor to transfer to new employers were successful in their requests.

Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody told *Saipan Tribune* that their office granted transfer requests to two-thirds of alien workers who sought transfer.

Cody said guest workers who want to move to another employers don't have to worry as long as they have found suitable employers.

"The safer route for transfer is to the established business, assuming it doesn't have a history of problems," Cody said.

He said he realizes that sometimes workers don't always know whether the employer that's offering them the job has a history of problems.

"In the cases where the department [Labor] is lodging an objection and after the objection hearing the employer is actually prohibited from hiring that worker, the worker is always given a second chance to look for another employer," Cody said.

Since the early part of this year, Labor's administrative hearing office has been receiving a lot of applications from alien workers who are seeking transfer to new employers.

Under the new system, a transfer to a new employer may be made only by an administrative order issued by a Labor hearing officer.

CUC: Water contamination problem fixed

A recent water contamination problem affecting customers from Msgr. Guerrero Road to Dahon Drive has been fixed, says the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The mechanical malfunction that resulted in the water being insufficiently treated with chlorine has been corrected and customers residing in the affected areas no longer need to boil tap water before using it.

According to CUC, the adequacy of the chlorine treatment at Dandan Well #3 is checked daily.

Water samples collected and tested on Thursday, Aug. 7, were found free of E. coli, the harmful bacteria that prompted the warning.

Any inquiries may contact the Water Division Manager at 235-7025. ***(CUC)***

FURNITURE DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First Hawaiian Bank donates furniture from its old Tamuning Branch, along with a $2,500 contribution to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam. Pictured from left to right are, Victor P. Camacho, executive director, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam; Peter Valdez, vice president and Tamuning Branch manager, First Hawaiian Bank; Phillip Santos, chairman of the board, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam; and George L. Johnson, board of directors, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam.

Outgoing LRC chief honored

Naomi Eve Lujan-Gonzales, outgoing executive director of the Law Revision Commission, was recently honored with a farewell luncheon.

She received a plaque from the Law Revision Commission/Supreme Court for her seven years of service to the people and government of CNMI.

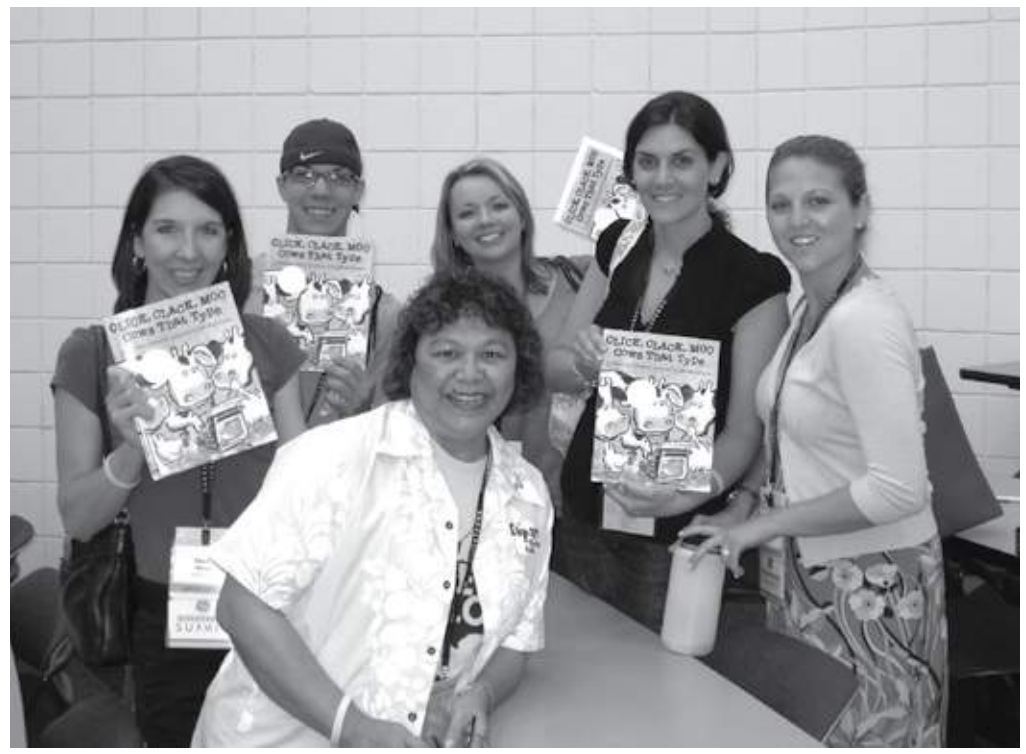
The plaque read: "Her organizational skills, professionalism and leadership have provided the courts and the community with comprehensive legal publications, improved access to CNMI laws and enhanced understanding of the process of making and researching law in the CNMI."

The Superior Court Judges also gave her a plaque.

Lujan-Gonzales has spearheaded numerous projects around the CNMI, including a food drive for Karidat and a charity drive for the Salvation Army. She has also conducted training sessions on customer service and work etiquette, as well as CPR and first-aid. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

BIRTHDAY BOY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 8th birthday to Dylen Kane Panelinan Basa who is celebrating his birthday today, Aug 9. We love you and God bless. Greetings from Mommy, Daddy, Tommy, and Tho'leyan Dyommy.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maggie Camacho, center, poses with team members. They won second place in the Public Service Announcement competition as part of the summit's activities.

Supportive communities make a difference

The Commonwealth Cancer Association sent a representative to attend the Lance Armstrong Foundation's second LIVESTRONG summit held between July 24 and July 27 in Columbus, Ohio. This year's theme focused on how communities that unite and demonstrate support make a difference in the lives of cancer survivors and their families.

Maggie C. Camacho, a breast cancer survivor of four years, said she was honored to represent the CNMI at the summit. Meeting cancer survivors from across the nation and hearing their stories inspired her to be more active at home.

"Nearly all of us have a loved one, friend, colleague or family member who has faced cancer. I feel that we need to engage our community more," said Camacho.

She said the community can strengthen its role and make a difference to CNMI survivors by helping existing local efforts to expand cancer-awareness events and increase survivor and care-giver support activities.

Camacho added while the summit also focused on cancer as a national issue, we are fortunate that we can easily speak to our legislators and governor. It is up to all of us, not just cancer survivors, to make it a community concern.

The LIVESTRONG Summit took place at Ohio State University 's Columbus campus; assembling cancer advocates, health care experts and elected officials from around the nation.

Featured speakers include Lance Armstrong, Surgeon General Vice Admiral Dr. Richard Carmona; Dr. Harold Freeman, president and founder of the Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Care and Prevention in Harlem and Senior Advisor to the Director of the National Cancer Institute; Stefanie Spielman, three-time breast cancer survivor, founder of the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research; and All-Pro NFL linebacker Chris Spielman.

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is the local cancer support organization for the Northern Mariana Islands. Established in 2003 under the umbrella of the CHC Volunteer Association, the CCA strives to increase cancer awareness and education, provides patient support and services and serves as the liaison for cancer matters in the Commonwealth and the region.

For inquiries, contact Joanne Ogo, CCA Program Coordinator. She can be reached at 682-0050 or emailed at cancercontrol@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lance Armstrong, cancer survivor, advocate and two-term member of the President's Cancer Panel, welcomed over 1000 participants from across the nation.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Tapping tired wells

There were good ideas in the energy plan Sen. Barack Obama unveiled Monday. The most important of these is a cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gases that would auction off 100 percent of emission credits. The Illinois Democrat also announced a strong commitment to alternative energy sources and a stepped-up conservation effort. But then there were his proposals for a "windfall profits tax" on oil companies and his call to release oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Modifying his previous opposition to tapping the reserve, Mr. Obama would swap more-expensive light crude held there for cheaper heavy crude "with the goal of bringing down prices at the pump." President Clinton did such a swap in September 2000—yes, just before another presidential election—and President Bush released oil in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina. Both moves led to drops in the spot price of crude but not the sort of relief at the pump that Mr. Obama promises. Even if they had, any relief from Mr. Obama's plan would be temporary while compromising a reserve intended to protect against disruptions in supply caused by wars, boycotts and the like.

Meanwhile, thanks to high crude oil prices, energy companies are, indeed, reaping immense profits. In the second quarter of 2008, Exxon and Shell each made over $11.5 billion. However, Mr. Obama's proposal to take some of this money from Big Oil and distribute it, like Robin Hood, to hard-pressed American families doesn't make economic sense. To be sure, Mr. Obama would not copy the tax enacted under President Carter in 1980, which netted $40 billion before its repeal in 1988 while imposing huge administrative burdens—and retarding domestic oil production. Mr. Carter's tax was levied per-barrel, so it directly increased the marginal cost of producing crude—and made figuring out which barrels to tax ridiculously complicated. Mr. Obama wants a surtax on net oil company profits above a "reasonable" level. The tax would be set high enough to raise $65 billion over the next five years, and the revenue would fund a one-shot tax rebate that Mr. Obama would like to give to families and individuals this year.

Making Exxon surrender money that is now falling into its lap would not necessarily affect its longer-term plans or incentives. Indeed, some of Big Oil's "windfall" ALREADY will go to the government: The more profit the companies earn, the more corporate income tax they pay. But to add a five-year tax increase on top of that to pay for a one-year gift to voters would, indeed, increase the cost of doing business. That cost would be passed along in forgone investment in new production, lower dividends for pension funds and other shareholders, and higher prices at the pump—thus socking it to the consumers whom the plan is supposed to help. If oil prices fall, there might be no windfall profits to tax. Then the Obama rebate would have to be paid for through spending cuts, taxes on something else or borrowing.

When his presumptive Republican opponent, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., proposed a gas tax holiday as a way to reduce the high cost of driving, Mr. Obama showed political courage and intellectual honesty by refusing to sign on to that obvious gimmick. "It's an idea to get them through an election," Mr. Obama said. Now he has two such gimmicks of his own.

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MARGULIES
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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
A longtime Bush loyalist deserves a high-ranking job in the Justice Department...
BARNEY

A gesture of principle

By DAVE ZIRIN
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Zirin, sports correspondent for the Nation*, is the author of the forthcoming* People's History of Sports in the United States.

The image lasted for only as long as it took to play the national anthem—yet it still resonates four decades later. Black American sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos, winners of the gold and bronze medals, respectively, in the 200-meter race bow their heads and raise their black-gloved fists to protest racism during the medal ceremony at the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City. Unlike other 1960s iconography—Woodstock, Abbie Hoffman, Richard Nixon—the moment doesn't feel musty. It still packs a wallop.

In New York's Harlem, street-corner merchants sell T-shirts with the image of Smith and Carlos emblazoned on them. On HBO last month, you could watch the 2004 documentary "Fists of Freedom," which told the story of the protest. On ESPN, a running question for athletes competing in the 2008 Games in Beijing, which begin Friday, is whether they will "pull a Smith-and-Carlos" to protest the lack of human rights in China.

I recently appeared on a panel with Carlos to discuss the history of sports and resistance. After the session, a long line of young people born years—even decades—after 1968 formed patiently to wait for the former athlete to sign posters, T-shirts and pins memorializing his protest. What was it about that moment 40 years ago that attracted these young people?

There are several possible explanations. The most obvious is that people love a good redemption song. Smith and Carlos were protesting more than racism in sports and society. They wanted South Africa and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) banned from the 1968 Games for their apartheid politics. They demanded more black coaches. They sought to hold Avery Brundage, president of the International Olympic Committee, accountable for what they saw as his racism. And they wanted Muhammad Ali's heavyweight title restored after it was stripped from him for his refusal to fight in Vietnam.

> *"With struggles being waged by black people in the areas of education, housing, employment and many others, it was only a matter of time before Afro-American athletes shed their fantasies and delusions and asserted their manhood and faced the facts of their existence."*

Smith's and Carlos' protest was part of movement called the Olympic Project for Human Rights. As sociologist Harry Edwards, who helped organize the group, wrote at the time, "With struggles being waged by black people in the areas of education, housing, employment and many others, it was only a matter of time before Afro-American athletes shed their fantasies and delusions and asserted their manhood and faced the facts of their existence."

Smith and Carlos were reviled for making "radical" demands and using the Olympic podium to do it. They received death threats and lived for years as pariahs in the sports world. But today their stand against South Africa, racism and for Ali seems more common-sense than radical. Rather than death threats, Smith and Carlos frequently attend ceremonies in their honor.

There's another reason why the image of raised, black-gloved fists has retained its power. Smith and Carlos sacrificed fame and fortune for a larger cause—civil rights. As Carlos told me in 2003: "A lot of the (black) athletes thought that winning (Olympic) medals would supersede or protect them from racism. But even if you won a medal, it ain't going to save your momma (from the effects of racism). It ain't going to save your sister ... "

Carlos' view resonates because we still live in a world where racism exists. If Hurricane Katrina taught us nothing else, it's that for every Barack Obama and Condoleezza Rice, there are many communities where the combination of poverty and racism weigh down black Americans.

It also resonates because Smith and Carlos used the ubiquitous platform of sports to make their stand. Today, sports is a global trillion-dollar business that, thanks to cable television, the Internet and corporate sponsorship, is vastly more influential than four decades ago. Yet the idea that today's athletes would use their hyper-exalted-brought-to-you-by-Nike platform to speak out against injustice seems almost unthinkable. Athletes Etan Thomas of the NBA and Scott Fujita of the NFL have spoken out on war, poverty and racism in the U.S. Some platinum-plated stars on the U.S. Olympic basketball team—notably Kobe Bryant and LeBron James—have raised concerns about China's connection to the genocide in Darfur.

The question is whether any Olympic athlete will match the audacity of Smith and Carlos in the 2008 Games. On Friday, the possible appearance of Tibet's flag again would remind us that the world of sports isn't immune to the politics of protest.

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The 80 percent on 08.08.08

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

China waited for 16 years to unfurl the best of its national banners in science, technology and culture in last night's opening of the Olympiad XXIX Beijing 2008 extravaganza. China-appropriated world science and contemporary technologies are on display for the next two weeks, from the communications gadgetries, "The Nest" national stadium, "The Water Cube" aquatic sports arena, the spanking new international airport and an equally out-of-the-box metro transport system.

Ninety percent of CO-belching vehicles will be off the streets and in strategic places around the sporting event venues are camouflaged mobile ground-to-air missile launchers, in case a wayward unidentified flying object insists on intruding into the Olympic air space.

The dramaturgy on opening night is the media's grist of admiration and criticism, awe and despair, for the next week. With famed Chinese film director Zhang Yimou orchestrating the high-profile opening festivities, the global response has been more on the side of awe and admiration.

China has this notion of its industrial development that if incoming investment can engage and impact 20 percent of the population affected by its entry that the investment would be worth incurring and protecting. It is the challenge to the socialist system to figure out how the remaining 80 percent downstream of the investment impact would benefit from ancillary industries and collected fees and revenues from the protected investment.

The classic laissez-faire capitalism of the West would just let market forces determine where and when profit and loss occur, though this is hardly practiced by any of the G-8 nations anymore. In fact, the U.S. no longer hesitates to "bail out" threatened and collapsed industries when it deems doing so necessary to serve the national interests.

It is with those 80 percent in mind that Beijing 2008 occasions a self-conscious assessment of the global landscape, now that we have finally included the Chinese and the Indians, more than a fourth of the human race, into active communion to the common weal and into the communal physiology and psychology of the global habitat.

Among people who take the shifting global paradigms seriously, there appear to be, at least, four basic perspectives, or four fundamental political positions.

First, there are those who are merely on a maintenance mood and mode; they would prefer to just extend current efforts and expend additional energies to save the current civilization and its trends—the civilization being the empire-building traditions that began with Sargon of Akkad in Mesopotamia to George W. Bush and his Dallas cohorts. They tend to be the elite of any social unit; the aristocratic, energetic and productive 20 percent of any given society that, at best, sustains the social process, or, at worst, exploits the 80 percent of the population who survive at the droppings from the elite's advantage. They are resistant to change, protective of their achieved prerogatives, and tend to conserve conditions that preserve the status quo rather than venture into unknown and untested territories. Where the best offense is the entrenched defense, they depend on the superiority of armaments and the priority of law to stabilize the social order. Hope resides on the resilience of the status quo.

Second, there are those who think that it is already too late to save the human species. On both extremes of the political spectrum are those who either inherited a belief in Armageddon that spells the predestination of a society gone awry, or are sophisticated doomsayers who cold-bloodedly look at the ecological disasters created by 6,000 years of civilization, have mastered the art and discipline of warfare as the only mode of settling social conflicts, and have relied heavily on nonrenewable fuel to maintain its energy needs. On the latter, conflict methodologies are strategically and systematically employed to make sure that the 20 percent can access and control the remaining known and still to be discovered fossil fuels. This embraces the politics of despair, expects an imminent collapse of the industrial civilization, and waits with glee for the remnants among fittest who will survive.

Third, there are those who begin by holding the first and second positions, each recognizing of virtue of small units, opting to build high-tech tribal societies whose gated neighborhoods are urban ghettoes in any metropolitan region across the planet. Some of them recognize the virtue of clean, swift, autocratic decision-making processes, and either out of charity or efficient management, organize society on an intentional class warfare between the 20 percent privileged (the haves) and the 80 percent outsiders (the have-nots) who are subject to physical coercion, at worst, or mental manipulation, at best. In any case, this proposes a return to exclusive tribalism under parochial definitions of ethnicity, culture, geography, ideology, or just arbitrary whim and fancy.

A fourth position is an open-ended invitation to create a heretofore untested post-civilization alternative. This position trades on the fresh currency of the courage to care for Gaia, the audacity of hope clearly beyond Obama, the resurgence of the spirit of ecumené, and the effectivity of practical but strategic logistics. Beholden to the virtue and the promise of participatory democracy, this position globalizes economics, localizes politics and celebrates all cultures. It represents an emerging group, albeit, a minority that recognizes the gifts of 100,000 years of tribal identity and existence, but also recognizes the new state of interdependence and a vocation of cooperation and collaboration of a world shrunk small by the miniaturization and standardization of tools and products.

This is not an attempt to create straw creatures just so one can take pot shots at them to promote another propped-up ideological dummy. The first three positions depict naive hope and sheer hopelessness, but the fourth is fraught with complexity and formidable challenge. The maintenance of the status quo anywhere in the world is no longer tenable, and to hope so is just wishful thinking. The willingness of those holding position two to allow for the demise of a substantial number of the population is criminal. To opt for the romanticized tribal native, or the heavily defended survivor in the concrete jungle is unethical.

China on display this week provides the world an opportunity to think of the Olympic theme: "One world, one dream." It is a time to point to a new age, of Ecozoic democracy that sees the planet belonging to all the people, that holds everyone accountable to all the decisions of human history as a responsibility of all the people, and dares to celebrate humanness as a heritage of all the people.

On the auspicious 08.08.08 in Beijing, with the 80 percent of Zhong Guo Ren (Chinese people) pathetically looking in from the outside, and 80 percent of the world population either oblivious, indifferent or angry enough to upset the gravy cart, individual and corporate reflections on the current state of the global habitat are in order, and deciding one's fundamental perspective on the State of the World has become today's moral imperative. Our identity in our time is already given: we are citizens of the global village. Deciding our vocation, beyond dreams of gold medals in Beijing2008, is what is finally at stake, and that race involves and engages all of us.

Why the Chinese think the world loves China

By JOHN KAMM
Special to The Washington Post

The writer is founder and executive director of the Dui Hua Foundation, a San Francisco human rights group.

The Chinese people, it seems, are among the most satisfied on Earth. More than 80 percent told the Pew Research Center that they are satisfied with the country's economy and overall direction, and 65 percent think the government is doing a good job. Ninety-six percent think the Olympics will be a success, and 93 percent believe the Games will improve the country's image. Three-quarters think China will win the most gold medals. Even accounting for distortions that arise in polling in authoritarian states, the numbers are impressive: China is brimming with optimism.

Three in four Chinese think the world likes China, while only one in 10 thinks foreigners don't like the country. More than 80 percent believe China takes other countries' interests into account when formulating foreign policy. Just 3 percent think China's economic growth has a negative effect on other countries. Only 1 percent knew a lot about the recall of Chinese products for quality and safety reasons.

Pew's Global Attitudes Survey of public opinion in 24 countries, released in June, makes clear that international opinion toward China is very different from what people in China think it is.

Excluding results from China, the mean "favorable" rating for China in 21 countries for which tracking data are available is 46 percent, and in 15 of these countries China's favorability rating declined this year from last. Also in 15 countries, more people believe that China exerts a bad influence on their country than think it exerts a good influence. Across all countries in the poll, only 30 percent believe China takes the interests of other countries into account. Knowledge of problems with Chinese products is widespread.

Other polls reveal a similar disconnect between how the Chinese think the world views China and how other countries actually view it. A recent BBC survey found that 90 percent of Chinese believe China's global influence is positive. The average opinion in the 23 countries for which tracking data is available was 47 percent.

Essentially, the people of China think twice as many people in the world like their country as actually do. This isn't a gap; it's a chasm. And the information bubble around the Chinese people explains a lot.

Consider the Chinese reaction to the Olympic torch protests this spring. More shock than anger, the sentiment underlying the people's responses was clear: How could foreigners behave so badly toward a country as loved and respected as China? An official from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs mournfully told me after the London and Paris protests in April: "China is smiling at the world, but the world is not smiling back." She stressed how hurt the feelings of the Chinese people were by protests of Beijing's human rights practices and its policy toward Tibet. Yet polling before the protests found widespread disapproval of Chinese policies toward Tibet in countries as diverse as India, South Korea, the United States and Germany.

The empty Beijing hotel rooms and the lower-than-usual interest in the Games outside China are attributable to more than the strict visa policies and security measures that have discouraged travel to Beijing. A year ago, an NBC News-Wall Street Journal poll found that two-thirds of Americans surveyed had little or no interest in attending the Games. China's image (which was not helped by its decision this week to revoke the visa of Olympian Joey Cheek) could affect the size of the international TV audience for the Games. The people in developed countries who think it was a mistake to award the Olympics to Beijing (43 percent of Americans, vs. 41 percent who told Pew it was the correct decision) are less likely to watch.

The fact that the Chinese people think the world loves China helps explain why it is so difficult to persuade Beijing to address human rights and other issues. The Chinese people, after all, see no need for changes to improve the country's image. In contrast, polls have shown that Americans are aware that the United States' image overseas has been badly damaged in recent years, and there is widespread agreement that work must be done to improve that image. In China, the Communist Party controls most of the information to which people have access, and that information does not include material showing how unpopular the country has become.

If the Chinese eventually come to understand how the world sees their country, they will ask why its image is so poor. They will learn, then, that there is concern about China's economic growth and its impact on Western jobs and on the environment, as well as concern about China's military expansion.

But most striking to the average Chinese may be the widely held view that their government does not respect personal freedoms. Majorities in 12 of 23 countries (including all of the top medal winners in the Athens Games except Russia) believe the Chinese government does not respect individual rights. In 10 countries, at least two-thirds hold that opinion. Only in four countries do a majority think the Chinese government respects personal freedoms.

It is not known whether the Chinese people think their government respects human rights: Pew wasn't allowed to ask this question in China.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly sunny. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

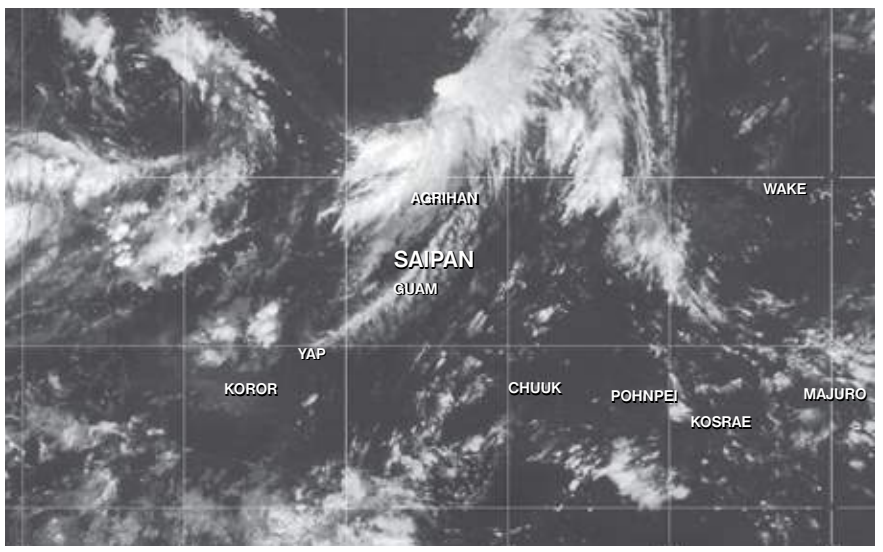
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲55	▼41
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲91	▼77
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Showers	▲70	▼59
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84	▼66
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼75
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	▲53	▼39
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼76
New York	Cloudy	▲78	▼64
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲95	▼77
Paris	Cloudy	▲71	▼61
Pusan	Cloudy	▲89	▼76
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼65
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲78	▼52
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲70	▼55
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲91	▼75
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲91	▼81
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼65

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough stretches eastward from a low pressure system centered near 23N130E to another low pressure system centered near 23N140E then continues eastward to end at 24N155E. Convergence associated with the trough and low pressure areas is generating extensive cloud-cover. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 150 miles of a line extending northeastward from 15N139E to 25N154E. This area includes islands north of Alamagan in the Marianas. A surface trough arcs northward from 9N135E near Yap to end at 18N136E. Convergence near the trough is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between 9N and 21N from 130E to 139E. An upper trough runs northeastward from 2N142E to 15N153E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms can be found within 100 miles of a line stretching northeastward from 1N143E to 15N155E. Trade wind convergence is causing widespread cloudiness, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over a large area of eastern Micronesia that includes Kosrae and the Marshall Islands. This is within an area bounded by a line from 14N166E to 4N158E to EQ160E to EQ170E to 4N180 to 14N180 to 12N170E back to 14N166E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:10AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:50AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
2:58PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:18PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:01AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	6:01AM	6:43 PM
Monday	6:02AM	6:43 PM
Tuesday	6:02AM	6:42 PM
Wednesday	6:02AM	6:42 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:35AM	
Sunday	1:27PM	12:02AM
Monday	2:20PM	12:48AM
Tuesday	3:11PM	1:37AM
Wednesday	4:01PM	2:29AM

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 09, 1999

New version of Fair Wage Act underway
A new comprehensive legislation stipulating fair compensation for resident workers in the Commonwealth is now awaiting action by the Senate after the House of Representatives passed it swiftly in a move they hope would finally enforce the long-overdue regulations. Sponsored by House Speaker Diego T. Benavente and Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio, House Bill 11-441 is a detailed version of two earlier laws that had drawn controversy over some vague provisions as well as the absence of implementing guidelines.

Court upholds local autonomy
The US District Court, recognizing the sensitiveness of issues relating to local control of labor and immigration, has declined jurisdiction over complaints that deal with violation of the CNMI labor laws. District Court Judge Alex Munson has dismissed at least seven claims in the class action suit filed 23 anonymous plaintiffs, saying such claims involved complaints that should be litigated in a local court. According to Munson, complaints on alleged violations of the CNMI Minimum Wage and Hour Act and the Nonresident Workers Act should be heard in a local court.

Failure to pass FY 2000 budget would hike deficit by $4 million
The powerful House Ways and Means Committee is wrapping up its review of the proposed $206 million budget submitted by the Tenorio administration for Fiscal Year 2000, and the Legislature is expected to vote on the appropriation measure within the next few weeks. Lawmakers must approve the spending package as the cash-strapped government could not afford to run under continuing resolution and follow appropriated amount from the previous fiscal year, according to committee chair Rep. Karl T. Reyes.

August 09, 2000

DPS links murder to organized crime
Police are now looking into the possible connection of organized crime syndicate Hong Kong Triad to the murder of 33-year-old Hong Kong Chinese Kim Fai Tse early Monday morning. Two unidentified men wearing ski mask gunned down Mr. Tse and injured his woman companion during a dawn attack at a restaurant in Chalan Piao.

House OKs tax incentives for tourism, IT investors
The House of Representatives yesterday paved the way for a proposed tax incentive program for investors in the tourism and high technology industries in yet another effort to boost the islands' flagging economy. A measure sponsored by House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta laying down such tax breaks is now up for Senate voting after the lower chamber cleared the proposal at the start of its second regular session.

Law restricts activities on Managaha
Managaha Island and its surrounding waters is now a marine conservation area in a bid by the CNMI to protect the popular tourist site from unrestricted commercial and recreational activities. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday signed Public Law 12-12 or the Managaha Marine Conservation Act of 2000 -- the first ever sanctuary created by government -- as he noted that regulations aimed at safeguarding the area's resources will preserve its beauty for future generations.

August 09, 2001

Deal to secure gov't payment
The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund and the Commonwealth government are poised to sign within the next few days a Memorandum Of Agreement, where the government will promise to pay the Fund half-a-million every two weeks, as an initial step toward settling the government's $60-million debt at the Fund.

Sign of the times HANMI president may lose own hotel
"Times are hard," said Ronald D. Sablan in a dispirited voice over the telephone yesterday afternoon. President of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Sablan is at risk of losing his own hotel. This may happen if the Superior Court forecloses a real estate property covering the Sablan family's Pacific Gardenia Hotel in connection with a civil action filed by the Commonwealth Development Authority Tuesday afternoon.

Business

Oil prices rise after Turkish pipeline fire

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices jumped back above $120 a barrel Thursday, halting a steep three-day slide after Kurdish rebels claimed responsibility for a fire at key Turkish pipeline that supplies Western countries.

Light, sweet crude for September delivery rose $1.44 to settle at $120.02 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, after prices alternated between positive and negative territory. Gasoline futures also rose, while heating oil and natural gas futures finished lower.

At the pump, retail gas prices tumbled further overnight. A gallon of regular fell on average just over a penny to $3.849, more than 6 percent off record-highs above $4 a gallon reached last month, according to auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express.

Crude had tumbled more than $6 over the previous three days, bringing prices $30 lower than its July high above $147 a barrel. But the contract rebounded after pro-Kurdish news agency Firat said the separatist group Kurdistan Workers' Party, known as PKK, admitted sabotaging the Turkish section of the critical Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline Tuesday night.

Apparel retailers faced with tough back-to-school time

NEW YORK (AP)—With the benefits of their stimulus checks dried up, Americans are focusing even more on necessities like detergent and milk. That's creating big problems for apparel chains at the malls as the important back-to-school shopping season gets under way.

Even more ominous: The number of newly laid off people unexpectedly hit the highest level in more than six years, according to a government report released Thursday.

"Most kids will be returning to school in last year's duds," Lazard Capital Markets analyst Todd Slater wrote in a report after seeing the July results from apparel retailers.

Sales reports for July from the nation's retailers show a widening gap between low-price operators and fashion chains, and analysts say the next couple of months will be critical for clothing stores that are on the cusp.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stocks fall on worries about financial sector
NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street tumbled Thursday as further troubles in the financial sector, higher unemployment and lackluster retail sales touched off fresh concerns about the economy. The Dow Jones industrials skidded nearly 225 points, while bond prices shot higher as investors once again sought the safety of government debt. The Dow fell 224.64, or 1.93 percent, to 11,431.43. It was the Dow's sixth triple-digit move in the past two weeks, illustrating how commonplace big swings in the indexes have become amid investors' uncertainty about the economy. Broader indicators also slid Thursday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 23.12, or 1.79 percent, to 1,266.07, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 22.64, or 0.95 percent, to 2,355.73.

Citigroup returning billions to investors
WASHINGTON (AP)—Citigroup Inc. will buy back more than $7 billion in auction-rate securities and pay $100 million in fines as part of settlements with federal and state regulators, who said the bank marketed the investments as safe despite liquidity risks. Citigroup will buy back the securities from tens of thousands of investors nationwide under separate accords announced Thursday with the Securities and Exchange Commission, New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo and other state regulators. The buybacks from nearly 40,000 individual investors, small businesses and charities are not expected to cause significant losses for Citigroup; they must be completed by November.

Jobless claims hit highest point since March 2002
WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's jobs market sent a fresh cry of distress as the number of newly laid off people unexpectedly hit the highest level in more than six years, a Labor Department report showed Thursday. The faltering economy and tight credit have forced companies to cut back, and as the job market shrinks, consumer spending may dwindle, too. New applications filed for unemployment benefits rose last week by a seasonally adjusted 7,000 to 455,000, the department said in its weekly report. That was the most since late March 2002, when the job market was struggling mightily to get back on its feet after the 2001 recession.

Nation

Migrant-packed SUV rolls, kills nine

FLORENCE, Ariz. (AP)—A sport utility vehicle packed with illegal immigrants rolled over Thursday on a rural highway southeast of Phoenix, killing nine people and injuring the other 10 on board, authorities said.

The passengers were crammed into a Chevrolet Suburban with two bucket seats in front and three seats in the back, said Lt. Mike Corbin of the state Department of Public Safety. All the dead and injured were trapped inside the crumpled vehicle and had to be extricated, officials said.

"We have cause to believe that this was a human smuggling operation, and so the people involved were illegally in the United States," said Vinnie Picard, a spokesman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The SUV crashed on a state route about 80 miles from Phoenix, Public Safety spokesman Bart Graves said.

Authorities say immigrant smugglers are increasingly staying off interstate highways, even though the bumpy, narrow roads they use as alternatives are tougher to negotiate at high speeds.

Lt. Mike Corbin of the Public Safety Department said the Suburban was heading north just before 8 a.m. Thursday when it ran off the road, crossed a dry wash, slammed into a concrete abutment on the other side and flipped over. The roof caved in when the SUV rolled.

A witness who was driving in front of the crashed SUV reported that it was approaching him fast when it veered off the road, Corbin said. The Border Patrol and other agencies said they had no knowledge of the SUV until after the crash. All the victims were adults, and all but two were men. The women both died at the scene, Corbin said.

The conditions of all 10 injured were not immediately available, but two of them were critical at a Tucson hospital.

Public Safety Officer Carmen Figueroa said that authorities are still trying to determine which of the crash victims was the driver, but that they believe he survived.

Crashes involving vehicles overloaded with illegal immigrants are fairly common in Arizona.

"The smuggler doesn't care if their cargo lives or dies," Border Patrol spokesman Rob Daniels said. "All they care is that they get paid."

Man held on charge of threat vs Obama

MIAMI (AP)—A man who authorities said was keeping weapons and military-style gear in his hotel room and car appeared in court Thursday on charges he threatened to assassinate Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama.

Raymond Hunter Geisel, 22, was arrested by the Secret Service on Saturday in Miami and was ordered held at Miami's downtown detention center without bail Thursday by a federal magistrate.

A Secret Service affidavit charges that Geisel made the threat during a training class for bail bondsmen in Miami in late July. According to someone else in the 48-member class, Geisel allegedly referred to Obama with a racial epithet and continued, "If he gets elected, I'll assassinate him myself."

Geisel

Obama was most recently in Florida on Aug. 1-2 but did not visit the South Florida area.

Another person in the class quoted Geisel as saying that "he hated George W. Bush and that he wanted to put a bullet in the president's head," according to the Secret Service.

Geisel denied in a written statement to a Secret Service agent that he ever made those threats, and the documents don't indicate that he ever took steps to carry out any assassination. He was charged only with threatening Obama, the presumptive Democratic nominee, but not for any threat against President Bush.

Geisel's court-appointed attorney declined comment. The charge of threatening a major candidate for president or vice president carries a maximum prison sentence of five years.

The Obama campaign declined comment Thursday on the alleged threat.

McCain calls for probe of company he once aided

WILMINGTON, Ohio (AP)—Republican John McCain called Thursday for a federal investigation into plans by the DHL shipping company that could cost 10,000 jobs here, as he and his campaign manager took criticism for helping DHL complete a key corporate merger in 2003.

With Democrats and labor groups blaming McCain and his campaign manager Rick Davis for their role in the threat to local jobs, McCain moved to demonstrate his concern about possible job losses in this critical swing state that gave President Bush the electoral votes needed for re-election in 2004.

The Republican presidential candidate called on the Justice Department to begin an antitrust investigation into DHL's plans to puts its packages aboard the planes of a rival, United Parcel Service, before delivering them in DHL trucks. Because UPS flies out of Louisville, Ky., the plans call for shutting the DHL shipping hub here that uses the Wilmington airport and eliminating up to 10,000 jobs.

McCain met with elected officials and residents of the southwest Ohio city to discuss the DHL plans. "I can't assure you that this train wreck isn't going to happen, but I will do everything in my power to see that we avert it," McCain told the group.

AP

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Contract firefighters from different agencies who were mopping up the west end of the Buckhorn Fire off of Big French Creek Road stand in the forest with their helmets off Thursday, Aug. 7, 2008, during a two-minute moment of silence for the firefighters killed in Tuesday's helicopter crash. Firefighters across the Iron Complex where the Buckhorn Fire is burning participated in the remembrance.

Feds investigate if Rockefeller was German student

BERLIN, Conn. (AP)—A Connecticut family is convinced that the mysterious man accused of kidnapping his daughter in Boston and wanted for questioning in the 1985 disappearance of a California couple was a German student who lived with his family decades ago.

Rockefeller

Immigration officials confirmed Thursday they have joined the investigation into the background of Clark Rockefeller, who is jailed in Boston on charges he snatched his 7-year-old daughter, Reigh, last month in an elaborately planned kidnapping.

Steve Savio, 39, of Berlin, Conn., said Thursday he is "100 percent certain" that Rockefeller is the same person who boarded with his family in 1980 under the name Christian Gerhart Reiter at age 17. His mother and brother agree.

"The first pictures I saw of him when he didn't have any glasses on, didn't look anything like him," Savio said in an interview Thursday with The Associated Press. "But the pictures after he was apprehended, with the glasses, those look just like him."

ACROSS THE NATION

Detroit mayor thrown in jail after bond violation

DETROIT (AP)—Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was jailed Thursday for a bond violation in his perjury case, his pleas for leniency rejected by a judge who made it clear the mayor would get no special treatment. Kilpatrick, charged with perjury and other felonies over his testimony in a civil trial, apologized and acknowledged that he made a mistake when he visited Windsor, Ontario, minutes away from Detroit, for city business last month. But District Judge Ronald Giles was not moved, saying he needed to treat the mayor like any other defendant. Kilpatrick was photographed Thursday and given a green jumpsuit like ones worn by other inmates.

Doctor pleads not guilty to abusing patients in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A physician whose father is the leader of Bermuda pleaded not guilty Thursday to sexually abusing patients. Prosecutors have charged Dr. Kevin Brown with 23 felony counts and allege that he molested eight patients, including an undercover police officer and a 15-year-old. Brown, 37, remained jailed on $4 million bail. Deputy District Attorney Ann Marie Wise said Thursday that prosecutors were investigating claims by eight more people who may have been abused. She said it was not clear if any charges would be filed in those cases. If convicted of all counts, Brown could face a possible sentence of nearly 27 years in prison.

Police raid Md. mayor's home and kill his dogs

BERWYN HEIGHTS, Md. (AP)—Mayor Cheye Calvo got home from work, saw a package addressed to his wife on the front porch and brought it inside, putting it on a table. Suddenly, police with guns drawn kicked in the door and stormed in, shooting to death the couple's two dogs and seizing the unopened package. In it were 32 pounds of marijuana. But the drugs evidently didn't belong to the couple. Police say the couple appeared to be innocent victims of a scheme by two men to smuggle millions of dollars worth of marijuana by having it delivered to about a half-dozen unsuspecting recipients. The two men under arrest include a FedEx deliveryman; investigators said the deliveryman would drop off a package outside a home, and the other man would come by a short time later and pick it up.

Flight attendant: Osteen's wife pushed co-worker

HOUSTON (AP)—The wife of evangelical pastor Joel Osteen got physical when her demands that a small spill on her seat be cleaned up were not immediately met, a flight attendant testified Thursday at a civil trial over the incident. Continental Airlines flight attendant Maria Johnson testified that Victoria Osteen grew increasingly agitated and pushed her co-worker Sharon Brown, though the flight attendants had remained professional and reassured her a crew had been called to clean the spill, which was about the size of a 50-cent piece. "She was demanding that attention be given to her immediately," Johnson said. She added that Victoria Osteen kept saying: "This is ridiculous. I'm a first-class passenger."

Mom: Walkie-talkie picks up trashy trucker talk

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (AP)—A West Virginia mother is seeking a recall of a popular walkie-talkie after her 3-year-old's toy apparently intercepted a profanity-laced conversation between truckers about drugs and strip clubs. Deborah Pancaro, 34, said she contacted Fisher-Price after she heard a conversation in which a man said "10-4" and other things that led her to believe the device was relaying a CB radio conversation. "They said we should go smoke some weed, and were talking about being in a strip bar, some really explicit things," Pancaro said Thursday. The walkie-talkie is sold exclusively at Wal-Mart.

NYPD arrests club employee in woman's death

NEW YORK (AP)—A bar worker at a popular Times Square karaoke club was arrested Thursday after confessing to beating a woman to death with a pipe on the club's roof during an argument, police said. Syed Rahman, 24, admitted he smashed Ingrid Rivera over the head at about 2:45 a.m. Monday during a birthday party for rapper Lil' Kim that the victim had paid to attend, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said at a news conference. Her body was discovered Wednesday afternoon.

Asia

Pakistani coalition moves to oust Pervez Musharraf

Pakistan (AP)—After months of internal bickering, Pakistan's governing coalition announced Thursday it will seek to impeach President Pervez Musharraf, cranking up pressure on the U.S.-backed former general to resign.

Musharraf

With his popularity at rock bottom and civilian political forces arrayed against him, the outlook is gloomy for the leader who pushed Pakistan into the U.S.-led war on extremist groups after the Sept. 11 attack on America.

But Musharraf, who is still seen as close to the armed forces he once commanded, appears in no mood to give up without a fight eight years after rising to power in a military coup.

Analysts said the coalition, which swept to power in February elections but has struggled with the pressing economic and security problems they inherited, is not assured of victory.

Stripping Musharraf of the presidency will require a two-thirds majority of lawmakers voting in a joint session of both houses of Parliament.

Parties in the coalition control 236 of the National Assembly's 339 seats and as many as 51 of the Senate's 100 seats. That is at least six seats short, so the coalition will need support from some of the 29 independent lawmakers or defectors from pro-Musharraf parties.

"It won't be smooth-sailing," said political analyst Mehdi Hasan. Asif Ali Zardari, leader of the coalition's biggest party, expressed confidence it will succeed. He called the move to seek impeachment "good news for democracy" in Pakistan.

The decision followed two days of marathon negotiations between Zardari and Nawaz Sharif, who was ousted as prime minister in Musharraf's 1999 coup and now leads the second-largest party in the coalition.

Their alliance—forged after the February election victory—has been at risk of collapse over differences over how to restore judges fired by Musharraf last year and whether to seek his ouster. While fears of the coalition splitting up have eased, the impeachment drive will heighten political tensions and set up a confrontation with Musharraf that many analysts thought Zardari wanted to avoid. Musharraf immediately canceled a planned trip to Beijing for the Olympics' opening ceremony.

Chinese Islamic group issues new Olympic threat

URUMQI, China (AP)—A Chinese Islamic group that has threatened to attack the Beijing Olympics released a new video warning Muslims to avoid being on planes, trains and buses with Chinese at the games, a U.S. group that monitors militant organizations said Thursday.

The video was purportedly made by the Turkistan Islamic Party, which seeks independence for China's western Xinjiang region, the SITE Intelligence Group said. The militants are believed to be based in Pakistan, where security experts say core members have received training from al-Qaida.

Last month, the group issued videotaped threats and claimed responsibility for a series of bus bombings in China. The new video, issued just ahead of Friday's opening of the games, features graphics similar to ones used earlier: a burning Olympics logo and an explosion imposed over an apparent Olympic venue.

The speaker in the six-minute video wears a black turban and covers his face. Gripping a Kalashnikov rifle, he speaks in the Turkic language of the Uighurs, a largely Muslim minority in China's western Xinjiang territory. The Uighurs have with a long history of tense relations with the central government.

Urging Muslims to "choose your side," the man warns: "Do not stay on the same bus, on the same train, on the same plane, in the same buildings, or any place the Chinese are," according to a translation by SITE.

More than 100,000 soldiers and police are guarding Beijing and other Olympic cities. Terrorism experts say the heavy security would likely force attackers to target less-protected areas.

Bush, Chinese leader exchange warm greeting

BEIJING (AP)—Speaking on China's turf the very day it hosted the opening of the Olympic Games, President Bush on Friday prodded the communist country to lessen repression and "let people say what they think."

The president's challenge, issued as he dedicated a massive new U.S. embassy in Beijing, capped a volley of sharp exchanges between the two nations this week about China's human rights record.

But Bush also offered balance, praising China's contributions to society and embracing its relationship with the United States as strong, enduring and candid.

"We strongly believe societies which allow the free expression of ideas tend to be the most prosperous and the most peaceful," Bush said at the official opening of the $434 million U.S. embassy.

British man protests China's record in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP)—A British man was taken away after unfurling banners that denounced China's human rights record on a major bridge in Hong Kong ahead of the Beijing Olympics' opening ceremony Friday.

Other protesters critical of China's human rights record were expected to demonstrate later in the day near the venue of the Olympic equestrian event in Hong Kong.

Matt Pearce, a longtime Hong Kong resident from Bristol, England, hung two banners on road signs on Hong Kong's Tsing Ma Bridge that said, "We want human rights and democracy" and "The people of China want freedom from oppression."

Officials shut down traffic on the bridge's upper deck where Pearce was protesting.

400 Tibetan protesters detained in Nepal

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Police have broken up a protest by Tibetan exiles in front of the Chinese embassy visa office in Nepalese capital, detaining more than 400.

Police official Ramesh Thapa says the Tibetan protesters tried to storm the visa office in Katmnadu violating a ban on demonstrations in the area.

Some of the protesters chanting anti-China slogans reached the gates but were blocked by the police who detained them.

World

Bin Laden's driver gets 5 1/2 years

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—A U.S. military jury sentenced Osama bin Laden's driver Thursday to just 5 1/2 years in prison, a surprise rebuke to Pentagon prosecutors who portrayed him as a member of the al-Qaida leader's inner circle worthy of a life sentence.

Salim Hamdan, with credit for time served, will be eligible for release in less than five months, though U.S. authorities still insist they could hold him indefinitely without charge at Guantanamo.

The sentence now goes for mandatory review to a Pentagon official who can shorten it but not extend it. It remains unclear what will happen to Hamdan once his sentence is served, since the U.S. military has said it won't release anyone who still represents a threat.

AP

In this Thursday, July 24, 2008 file photograph of a sketch by courtroom artist Janet Hamlin, reviewed by the U.S. Military, defendant Salim Ahmed Hamdan, left, watches as FBI agent Craig Donnachie testifies about his interrogations of Hamdan, while a picture of disguised U.S. agents is displayed on a screen, during Hamdan's trial inside the war crimes courthouse at Guantanamo Bay U.S. Naval Base, in Cuba.

Iraqis: Deal close on plan for US soldiers to depart

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq and the U.S. are near an agreement on all American combat troops leaving Iraq by October 2010, with the last soldiers out three years after that, two Iraqi officials told The Associated Press on Thursday. U.S. officials, however, insisted no dates had been agreed.

The proposed agreement calls for Americans to hand over parts of Baghdad's Green Zone—where the U.S. Embassy is located—to the Iraqis by the end of 2008. It would also remove U.S. forces from Iraqi cities by June 30, 2009, according to the two senior officials, both close to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and familiar with the negotiations.

The officials, who spoke separately on condition of anonymity because the talks are ongoing, said all U.S. combat troops would leave Iraq by October 2010, with the remaining support personnel gone "around 2013." The schedule could be amended if both sides agree—a face-saving escape clause that would extend the presence of U.S. forces if security conditions warrant it.

U.S. acceptance—even tentatively—of a specific timeline would represent a dramatic reversal of American policy in place since the war began in March 2003.

Both Iraqi and American officials agreed that the deal is not final and that a major unresolved issue is the U.S. demand for immunity for U.S. soldiers from prosecution under Iraqi law.

Throughout the conflict, President Bush steadfastly refused to accept any timetable for bringing U.S. troops home. Last month, however, Bush and al-Maliki agreed to set a "general time horizon" for ending the U.S. mission.

10-year-old bullfighter sparks debate

PARIS (AP)—He's a tiny torero, a bullfighter with a baby face. But 10-year-old Michelito has become the symbol of a debate much bigger than himself.

French anti-bullfighting campaigners say the boy, who came from Mexico to perform, is risking his life in the ring. Local authorities in southern France canceled two demonstrations where he was set to appear. Other performances have gone ahead, with Michelito—who has big brown eyes and a floppy bowl cut—showered with flowers by fans.

AP

Ten year old Franco-Mexican bullfighter Michelito Lagravere reacts after fighting a young bull in Hagetmau arena, southwestern France, Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008.

It's all part of a bigger battle: French animal rights groups vs. bullfighting, which is a tradition in southern France as in neighboring Spain, and which has a small but passionate French following.

For Michelito Lagravere, the passion started young, about as soon as he could walk. Born in Mexico to a Mexican mother and a French bullfighting father, he started playing at being a torero—using a dish towel as a cape—when he was just a tot, his father said.

He was 4 years old the first time he faced off against a month-old calf. Now 10, he has fought about 60 animals to the death, his father said. Videos on the Internet show him in the ring with injured, staggering calves—not to mention Michelito being trampled.

"Am I afraid?" asked his father, Michel Lagravere. "I'm afraid like all fathers are afraid for their children. ... It's like all other sports. It's more dangerous than playing chess, if that's considered a sport. But I don't think it's more dangerous than horseback riding and riding competitions."

In Mexico, bullfighting is governed by a network of local regulations. According to rules in Mexico City, the age of bulls is established—most have to be between 3 and 6 years old—while there is no mention of age limits for bullfighters. Younger bullfighters tend to face smaller bulls and calves.

Maharlika – PinoyNews

Foreign workers can now stay up to 5 years in S. Korea

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Foreign workers in South Korea, including Filipinos, can now work for up to five straight years, up from three years, without taking the compulsory one-month vacation outside the country, a Philippine diplomat said.

Philippine Ambassador to South Korea Luis Cruz told INQUIRER.net foreign workers' extension of stay in the East Asian country took effect on Monday as ordered by the Ministry of Labor.

Citing the revised Foreign Workers Employment Law, he said the extension was made following complaints from foreign workers over the cost of the one-month trip and business also complained about work disruptions.

With the new rule, employment procedures will also change for management to hire more eligible persons. Under the previous system, employers had to pick workers from those passing a Korean language test without rigorous screening. But now, a new list will show each jobseeker's qualifications and career record; employers will also be able to recruit directly via interviews overseas.

Workers will also get additional support. The government will provide job information to ethnic Korean Chinese people to help them settle in South Korea more easily after signing work contracts.

"In order to prevent workplace exploitation, conditions will be specified that allow workers to transfer to other companies. Workers can apply for transfers when wages are delayed and if their employer violates the Korean Labor Law," the new rule said.

The previous employment permit system (EPS) limited the transfer of workplaces to factory closures or worksite abuse.

In April, 377,032 foreigners were working under the EPS and 75.4 percent of them were working at companies with less than 30 on their payroll.

As of December 2007, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas placed the number of Filipinos in South Korea at 80,715. Of the number, 6,187 are permanent residents, 62,528 are temporary workers, and 12,000 are irregular.

OFW power fuels Philippine growth

From a few thousands to more than five million—such is the phenomenal growth of the number of overseas Filipino workers.

In 1975, when the overseas workers program began, some 35,000 workers were deployed. But as of December 2004, there were 3.6 million and 1.3 million "irregular" overseas Filipinos, according to the Commission of Filipinos Overseas' Stock Estimate of overseas Filipinos.

The OFWs, also called "temporary" overseas workers in the commission's count, include persons whose stay overseas is employment related and who are expected to return at the end of their work contracts.

The "irregular" overseas Filipinos are those who are not properly documented or without valid residence or work permits or who are overstaying in a foreign country.

The third category of overseas Filipinos in the study are the "permanent" overseas Filipinos, including immigrants or legal permanent residents abroad whose stay does not depend on work contracts. They number 3.2 million in 2004, bringing the total of number overseas Filipinos to 8.1 million.

With the big increase of OFWs, what started as a stop gap measure to ease local unemployment and poverty some 30 years ago has become a major government program and a big factor in the country's economy.

Money sent by OFWs back to the Philippines amounted to $10.7 billion in 2005.

Remittances sent through informal channels, like a worker's friends, acquaintances or other travelers, were estimated to reach $1.7 billion. This makes estimated total OFW remittances in 2005 to be about $12.3 billion.

It was the first time that OFW inflows breached the $10-billion mark, equivalent to about half of the Bangko Sentral's international reserves. In 2004, OFW remittances sent through the banking system amounted to $8.6 billion, up from $7.6 billion in 2003 and $6.9 billion in 2002.

In 2006, OFWs sent back $12.6 billion to their local beneficiaries through the banking system alone. The central bank estimated that this amount to be understated by an average of 30 percent because of funds sent home through informal channels.

Last year, overseas Filipinos sent a total of $14.96 billion to the country, augmenting funds for consumption, savings and investment. These inflows were coursed through banks and other alternative channels.

For this year, the BSP has projected a 10-percent rise in OFW remittances to a record high of $16.4 billion, despite fears that the US-led global slowdown might temper these flows. Of the amount, about $15.7 billion was expected to be coursed through the formal banking system. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

BPI *sees robust* OFW *money inflows*

MANILA, Philippines—The Ayala group's Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), the biggest bank channel for cash remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), expects its share of these inflows to sustain a growth of 38 percent this year as more OFWs start to allot money for savings.

EXCHANGE RATES
DOLLAR $1.00 = PESO P44.3

That growth rate, which is in line with the actual numbers for the first half of the year, is nearly four times the rate projected by the central bank for overall OFW money remittances through banks and other formal channels this year.

"Logically, it should slow down," given weakened global economic growth, BPI president Aurelio Montinola III said of OFW money remittances, "but fortunately we haven't seen that."

BPI senior vice president Teresita Tan said OFWs "are now saving for themselves."

"Before, they sent only consumption money, but now they're sending in money for themselves," Tan said. "And we're giving them new outlets and developing new markets, like Australia."

BPI, for the third straight year, recently won an award from the central bank as the top commercial bank for OFW cash remittances, with a 22-percent volume growth and a 23-percent market share in 2007. That feat elevated it to the central bank's "Hall of Fame."

Tan said BPI was surprised that OFW cash remittances from all territories it served were growing at a "fantastic" pace this year.

"The biggest growth is coming from the Middle East and Europe," Tan said.

PEACE DEAL AP

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Secretary Hermogenes Esperon, second left, hands over a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno, second right, as Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro, left, and Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon, right, looks on Thursday, Aug. 7, 2008 in suburban Quezon City north of Manila.

'BPOs, OFW demand for housing to drive RP growth'

MANILA, Philippines—The National Economic and Development Authority on Thursday said overseas Filipino workers' demand for housing and the service sector, specifically business process outsourcing (BPO), will drive the country's gross domestic product to grow 5.7 percent this year.

At the Senate hearing on the impact of the increasing oil prices, NEDA deputy director general Augusto Sanchez said: "The main source [of growth] is skilled services mainly from business process outsourcing and property development."

"There's a huge demand for housing buoyed by remittances from OFWs. The remittances this year is more than last year and those remittances triggered a lot of demand for housing, generically property development," he said.

While inflation is seen to increase by double-digits in July, Santos said the rise in the prices of basic commodities would "moderate a little bit in August because there are signs that oil prices may go down."

? LABOR FRONT

Workforce plan requirements

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: What is the purpose of the Department of Labor's workforce plan requirements?

A: A workforce plan's objective is for an increase in the percentage of U.S. citizens and permanent residents in the workforce of the employer. According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, the plan shall include a timetable for accomplishing the identified replacement of foreign national workers with citizens and permanent residents and shall identify the employee responsible for carrying out the plan.

*** *** ***

Q: Who among the employers are required to have a workforce plan?

A: The Regulations state that every employer with 10 or more employees, unless exempted, is required to have a workforce plan. Employers with fewer than 10 employees who are found to have violated the workforce participation requirement of a provision in the Public Law 15-108 may be ordered by a Labor administrative hearing officer to adopt a workforce plan. Such employers will be subject to all provisions of law and regulations with respect to a workforce plan from and after the date of the hearing officer's order.

*** *** ***

Q: What will happen to employers who are required to develop a workforce plan if they fail to file such a plan?

A: The Regulations provide that every employer required to have a workforce plan must have on file with the Labor's Employment Services director a written, current plan. A workforce plan is current if it has been updated and filed within the past 14 months. Failure to file a required workforce plan is a ground for denial of contract renewal for any alien worker holding a position that should have been covered by the plan.

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Muslim rebels agree to leave villages

By HRVOJE HRANJSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim rebels in the southern Philippines agreed to comply with a government ultimatum to leave several occupied Christian villages by Friday and avoid fighting at a sensitive time in their peace process.

Moro Islamic Liberation Front Vice Chairman Ghazali Jaafar said the agreement was reached late Thursday in a meeting of a joint cease-fire committee, ahead of the Friday morning deadline for the rebels to withdraw their forces from five Christian townships in North Cotabato province.

National police chief Avelino Razon confirmed Friday that the rebel response to the deadline was positive.

Top police and defense officials in Manila accused the rebels Thursday of burning houses, destroying farms, stealing cattle and driving away 6,500 residents from their homes. They gave the rebels 24 hours to pull back or face attack.

The tensions come at a delicate moment in the peace effort. The government and the MILF rebels were set to sign a preliminary accord expanding an autonomous Muslim region in exchange for ending the bloody insurgency, but the Supreme Court, acting on a petition by North Cotabato's Christian politicians, blocked it Monday.

The leaders in the predominantly Roman Catholic province earlier accused government officials of ignoring their pleas for help in dealing with the rebels.

Many of the villages are located in the marshy border between North Cotabato, a bustling agricultural province of more than a million people, and Maguindanao, a sprawling province of mostly Muslim residents where the MILF has large rural camps. North Cotabato is about 560 miles (960 kilometers) south of Manila.

Jaafar said the rebels will reposition their forces from the villages to a rebel camp starting Friday. Asked why the rebels took the villages in the first place, he said that several MILF members had "problems" in the area and other guerrillas joined them and established a presence there.

Similar local incidents of land grabbing and cattle rustling have occasionally threatened a 2003 cease-fire but so far have not escalated into any major fighting.

The rebels—with an estimated 11,000 armed fighters—have been battling for self-rule in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation's volatile south for four decades, with thousands dying in the conflict.

Under the preliminary agreement that was to have been signed Tuesday in Malaysia, the existing five-province autonomous Muslim region in the south would be expanded to add more than 700 villages, provided residents approve the move in a vote.

RP doctors rush medicines to cholera-stricken villages

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine health workers headed to a remote southern township Thursday to battle an outbreak of cholera that killed 20 people and sickened 147 others, an official said.

Most of the victims of the outbreak in several mountainous hamlets near Palimbang town in Sultan Kudarat province were children, Mayor Samrud Mamansual said.

He said the first deaths were reported Monday in the village of Milbuk, about 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) south of Manila, among members of the Manobo tribe who get their drinking water from a waterfall.

The head of the Health Department's epidemiology center, Dr. Eric Tayag, said a team of health workers was on its way to the area with badly needed medicines.

"Right now we're focused on preventing deaths," he told The Associated Press, adding he did not believe the outbreak would spread. "We don't expect this to get any worse."

He said 20 people had died and 147 were sickened.

Red Cross volunteer Marilou Torres, who visited the area Thursday, said those who died succumbed to severe dehydration and that all victims suffered from diarrhea and vomiting.

The area is so remote that it takes five hours by car to reach Palimbang from General Santos City, the nearest medical center 100 miles (160 kilometers) away, plus another four-hour hike to get to the villages, Torres said.

She said the Red Cross discovered the cases after trying to check a report that seven people had died from hunger in Palimbang.

A similar outbreak in the neighboring village of Ligaw three months ago killed eight people and sickened 60 others.

Cholera outbreaks are not uncommon in the Philippines, especially during the rainy season. Tayag said the Health Department has been warning residents to boil water to prevent waterborne diseases. Cholera is a severe gastrointestinal disease often caused by consuming water or food contaminated with fecal matter.

RP bishop robbed outside cathedral

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Roman Catholic bishop in the Philippines says he lost his cell phone and wallet to a gun-wielding thief, but prayed for the man instead of going to police.

Archbishop Jesus Dosado says he was walking toward Manila Cathedral to pray at 5:30 a.m. Friday when a man on a motorbike stopped ahead of him, pretended to check the vehicle and then suddenly pulled a gun.

Dosado says he did not resist and gave the robber his cell phone and a wallet with a driver's license and the equivalent of US$74.

Instead of informing police, Dosado says he decided to continue to the cathedral to pray for the assailant's salvation.

The bishop was speaking on church-run Radio Veritas.

Robberies are common in Manila but they rarely target the men of cloth.

Rights groups push freedom for 'prisoners of conscience'

MANILA, Philippines—Groups of various human rights organizations have assembled here to show support for political prisoners detained in Myanmar.

Led by Free Burma Coalition in a demonstration on Buendia Avenue in Makati City, members of Amnesty International, Amnesty Initiatives for International Dialogue, Alliance of Progressive Labor, Coalition Against the Trafficking of Women, Sanlakas, Partido ng Manggagawa, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, Task Force Detaineesof the Philippines, and Akbayan held a demonstration calling for the release of more than 2,000 "prisoners of conscience" who were imprisoned 20 years ago.

At that time in Myanmar, Burmese students gathered and staged demonstrations calling for democracy. These quickly spread in different parts of Myanmar until six weeks later, government security forces stepped in, killing approximately 3,000 people and imprisoning thousands more.

"We are also calling on the Chinese authorities to exert pressure on the Myanmar authorities such that they improve their human rights situation," Aurora Parong, section director of Amnesty International, said in an interview with INQUIRER.net.

"The Beijing Olympics is a crowning glory for China. But the stain for China is the poor human rights situation inside its country and poor foreign policies—for instance, supporting Myanmar authorities to have a record of two decades of human rights violation," Parong said.

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Maharlika – Pinoystyle

Echo sings his heart out

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—There's life after Heart.

This, in a nutshell, was what singer-actor Jericho Rosales told Inquirer Entertainment in an hour-long chat last week.

Actress Heart Evangelista, in an interview with the TV gabfest "Showbiz Central" in June, announced her decision to end her three-year relationship with Jericho. She claimed that a "third party" had caused the break-up.

Heart added that things turned sour between herself and the actor when he began working on his indie movie "I Love You Virus," opposite American actress Brianna Evigan, and then on the drama series "A Time For Us," with Malaysian actress Carmen Soo.

In an interview on the rival show "The Buzz," Jericho, who was in Malaysia at the time, tearfully denied cheating on Heart.

Two months later, Jericho—Echo to his friends—insisted that "the sadness and loneliness have all gone."

Apart from his new film and TV show, both set for international release, Echo is busy working on his third album with EMI Music. For two Tuesdays last month, Echo and his band Jeans performed at the Spicy Fingers Bar in Greenbelt 2, Makati, where he sang originals as well as covers of James Taylor, Jason Mraz and John Mayer.

But while he claimed to have "moved on," Echo still occasionally referred to Heart in some of his spiels.

How are you now, after the break-up?

Somehow I've managed to move on. My focus now is my work, my band, and my songs. I'm set to record a new album soon. A movie is also coming up with Anne Curtis. A soap opera with (another ex-girlfriend) Kristine Hermosa is also in the offing.

Are you thankful that work is keeping you from thinking about Heart?

To be honest, work doesn't help much. It's not the way to heal, to forget about something. What helped were prayers and a lot of positive thinking.

Do you miss her?

Yes, I do. You have no idea.

Have you gotten back to surfing in La Union? It's something that you used to do together.

I've not gone back to the North. I've not seen my friends there yet. But I've been surfing a lot lately, mostly just in Zambales. I also surfed when I was in Malaysia. Generally, I'm fine. There's no more emptiness and sadness, although it's really hard to take away the pain. Three years is not something anyone would easily forget.

Singer-actor Jericho Rosales

Who do you run to when you're down in the dumps?

I call my family and Budji Libarnes, my architect and surfer best friend. Budji knows a lot about how I suffered. In show biz, I'm close to Gary V and his family. They supported me a lot.

Didn't you feel ill-at-ease working with Carmen after the controversy?

In the beginning, *medyo dyahe*. But we're comfortable working together now. She's a pro and she's mature enough to understand the situation.

In an interview, Carmen said she felt victimized by what happened.

Whoever gets involved in a situation similar to this would also feel victimized. You come to the Philippines to work and then, boom, something like this happens to you. I apologized to her.

There's talk that you never really broke up with Heart and that this is just a plan to further your careers.

I'm not the type who would go that low. I'm not a fake. I can't do that.

Was the death of "Manong" Gilbert Perez ("A Time For Us" TV series director) traumatic for you? You personally brought him to the hospital.

It was an awful experience. It was 5:30 a.m. and we were still working. I guess he got really tired. His condition improved when he got to the hospital. A few days later, he went through dialysis and had another heart attack. That one killed him.

You're very popular in Malaysia. How was your stay there?

It was okay. I enjoyed it. Malaysia is like my second home. People there know me. They sometimes ask their pictures to be taken with me, just like here in Manila. But I had problems with the food, *sobrang anghang kasi*.

There was also this instance when we had to shoot in a place called Cameron Highlands. It was really cold, but we were all wearing summer outfits.

You also play lead in "I Love You Virus." When is the film coming out?

It's showing in the last quarter of this year. The plan is to have it shown in Hollywood. I'm very proud of it. The production group keeps talking about what we're going to do on premiere night. But we still have some stuff to shoot. The producers are just working on Brianna's schedule.

What was it like working with a team of foreigners?

Director Francis de la Torre is a Filipino-American based in the US. His assistant director, the assistant cameraman and the audioman are Americans. The DOP is Austrian. The team is efficient and disciplined. *Bilib ako sa kanila*. The actors had their own trailers. We never ran out of food on the set. The only thing I had to worry about was my lines.

You mentioned a third album …

My goal is to record an all-original album, although I also have a couple of revivals in mind. It will still be with EMI Records. My guitarist Dohn Cernado and I have a lot of new material, but we're still testing the waters. We want to see if the local record industry will improve before releasing this new album. Right now, I'm recording "Di Bale Na Lang" for Gary's 25th anniversary album.

Ruffa roughs it up as villain

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Ruffa Gutierrez is worried that, by the end of the run of the forthcoming ABS-CBN series "I Love Betty La Fea," she may need Botox treatments.

It's because her character, Daniela Valencia, is a world-class meanie, she clarifies. "She's always frowning."

In "Ugly Betty," the Hollywood version of the Colombian soap hit, Ruffa's character is being played by fellow beauty queen Vanessa Williams. "She's always wide-eyed on the show, as if she's just had Botox," Ruffa says in jest.

Coincidentally, it was judge Vanessa who asked Ruffa's make-or-break question in the 1993 Miss World contest where she emerged Second Princess.

Ruffa has the complete DVD set of the US series, but is purposefully avoiding watching all the episodes.

"I hope to come up with my own interpretation of the role," she explains. "In any case, the first time I watched it, I was with my kids and there was a love scene! I had to turn if off."

Although she's making a point not to imitate Vanessa, Ruffa considers the "Ugly Betty" star as one of her "inspirations" in creating Daniela, along with Meryl Streep in "The Devil Wears Prada," model and reality show star Kimora Lee Simmons and, yes, herself.

"I can relate with Daniela because we both love fashion, but I can't match her drive and ambition. Unlike her, I will not step on toes just to advance my career," Ruffa asserts.

$$ PERSONAL FINANCE

Are you financially healthy?

Editor's Note: This is a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: I'm turning 40 soon and I'm planning a "life makeover". For one, I've resolved to eat healthier food and exercise more. I would also like to pay more attention to my finances and see if I'm doing the right thing. Is there a "financial checkup" I can avail of? – Sarah

Answer: As you celebrate a milestone in your life such as turning 40, it's good that you feel the need to stop and take stock of what your life has been like so far. We all need time to look back and see where we have gone, where we need to go, and find out what we should do to reach our goals.

In terms of finances, there is indeed a "financial checkup" you can easily take to help you assess your financial standing. It's the Citi Fin-Q, a survey assessing your financial quotient or Fin-Q, which you can take online for less than five minutes at www.citibank.com.ph.

In October last year, Citibank, through Australia-based CxC Consulting, asked 400 respondents each from Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand to take a survey online. These respondents were between 18 to 40 years old, and either had a bank account or a credit card.

They were asked 11 questions about their financial well being, from their attitude toward their finances to budgeting, saving, and financial planning. The maximum possible score is 100.

It is interesting to note that Filipinos scored an average of only 47.8 points in their Fin-Q. Sixty-two percent of the respondents scored less than 50. In addition, survey results showed:

1. Budgeting is not a habit. Less than four out of 10 Filipinos have a monthly budget and stick to it.

2. Insurance is not a priority for everyone. Three out of 10 Filipinos have no insurance (life and non-life), leaving them vulnerable to financial crises.

3. Saving is not automatic. Less than four out of 10 Filipinos set aside or save money every payday.

4. Retirement is way out of their radar. Only one out of 10 Filipinos is consciously saving up for retirement. The rest have not started planning, don't have an idea how much they need for retirement, or have some savings but don't know if they are enough.

5. We tend to look to our family for help. About five out of 10 said they would need assistance from their adult children when they retire.

6. Savings are not enough. On average, Filipinos have about nine weeks' worth of savings. If one loses his job today and still has to pay for his regular day-to-day expenses, his savings will be wiped out in nine weeks.

Signs of a financially healthy person

The Fin-Q is a helpful tool to find out where you stand, and what you should work on. Based on the survey, here are the signs of being financially healthy:

1. Having a monthly budget you stick to. It's easy to spend left and right when there's still money in your wallet or when you happen to have your credit card with you always. But doing so will leave you with barely enough to live on at the end of the month or when a crisis happens. Start a budget. Set aside money for savings then put a limit on your spending.

2. Saving as soon as you get paid. Some people save only when there's money left at the end of the month after other expenses have already been incurred. Others only save when they get a financial windfall, such as a bonus. Make savings a monthly habit by taking off at least 10 percent of your paycheck before you spend the rest of it. Put this in a savings account, and transfer to higher yielding investments later.

3. Paying your credit card bill on time. Every purchase charged to your credit card is a debt you have to pay. Always pay on time to avoid getting penalized with finance charges for late payments. Also, if possible, pay your credit card bill in full so as to save on interest charges. If this is not possible, pay what you can. Bear in mind, though, that if you keep paying just the minimum amount, you will be incurring a lot of interest expense and it will take you a long time to get out of debt. The best thing to do is to charge only what you can afford to pay so you won't have a hard time paying off your debt.

4. Having adequate insurance coverage. If people are dependent on you for support, it makes sense to take out life insurance so they will be cushioned from financial problems if something happens to you. Also, take insurance coverage for your and your family's health, and insurance to protect your assets.

5. Having a retirement plan. We cannot always depend on our adult children to take care of us someday. Find out how much you need to have a comfortable lifestyle at retirement, and plan out how to achieve that. A financial planner may be able to help you.

It's never too late or too early to take steps to be financially healthy. Start today!

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Undoing

There is no doubt that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo the bears final responsibility for the fiasco on the Memorandum of Agreement on ancestral domain. Her team of negotiators had merely followed the mandate she had given them. But if she wishes to salvage the peace process she has recklessly endangered, she must now distance herself from the MOA, as it is written.

She must fire her peace adviser, Hermogenes Esperon, for the eminently practical reason that his continued participation in the peace process will erode support for any peace pact from the political classes.

She must reconstitute her negotiating team, placing at its helm a politician of unmistakable national stature and filling it with veterans of other peace negotiations.

She must disown the MOA as it now stands, by publicly instructing the new panel members to renegotiate the agreement on ancestral domain—hewing closely, this time, to the Constitution.

She must steel the Armed Forces' resolve, to protect citizens in case MILF factions take military action. The only way to prevent trouble from civilians who have taken up arms is to remove their rationale for taking up arms in the place, by sending in more troops.

Not least, she must rebuild the constituency for peace.

Undone

The ceremony scheduled in Kuala Lumpur for last Tuesday, to mark the signing of the controversial Memorandum of Agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front on the ancestral domain issue, was high-profile by design. No wonder the MILF insists that the MOA is "a done deal."

To be sure, the government's official position is that there is no deal yet. But this message has been undercut by other statements, especially those belaboring the points of agreement reached in the MOA. For instance, the President's spokesman, Jesus Dureza, defended the nature of the meeting of minds. "We're pushing for a breakthrough here. These noises will calm down when they see the bigger picture. We will see there is no cause to be threatened. It's not only for the MILF, it's for whole communities in Mindanao. We just have to reassure those openly protesting."

Even more telling, unofficial channels continue to traffic in talk about secret assurances, or discuss preparatory planning for establishing parallel government departments (such as a separate economic planning agency) in the soon-to-be-expanded Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Indeed, even the controversial conversation between Esperon and Vice Gov. Manny Piñol of North Cotabato province, in which Esperon allegedly told Piñol not to count on military protection if the petition for a TRO prospered, is itself remarkable for the allegation's assumption: that the administration was perceived to be "siding" with the MILF.

These are signals that the MILF could not have missed. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Sellout to MILF, or a setup for charter change?

Passion For Reason

By RAUL PANGALANGAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

That the proposed Bangsamoro Juridical Entity will have powers inconsistent with the Philippine Constitution—that much is obvious. Indeed, that is why it can be put into place only when it is approved by the people in a plebiscite.

The next issue is whether our negotiators can agree to submit such proposals to a plebiscite. In effect, they are merely proposing Charter change, which is allowed by the Constitution. To the extent that they promised to do so in an agreement, at worst they were giving conditional consent, subject to ratification by their principals.

The real problem then is whether we are simply being maneuvered into revising the Constitution, where the purported object is to engage our Muslim brethren but the hidden agenda is to enable Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to remain in office beyond 2010. Thus seen, the proposed agreement is the cleverest maneuver. Charter change, despite several fits and starts, couldn't get off the ground and was finally junked by the Supreme Court. Now suddenly it enlists the cause of Muslim self-determination in Mindanao and—voila!—the lost cause gains new adherents and builds fresh momentum.

The incompatibilities with the Constitution are legion. One, the 1987 Constitution uses the term "autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao" while the pact uses the term "Bangsamoro Juridical Entity" covering a much larger area. The term is at best amorphous, at worst evasive.

"Juridical Entity" is the most generic lawyer-talk for any legal body vested with rights and powers, of which the most pedestrian example is the corporation. Avoiding the term "autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao" is understandable. One, that name is already being used (that's what the ARMM stands for) and it will only confuse people. Two, to say, for instance, "Expanded ARMM" might only exacerbate political passions on either of the battlefields. And three, given that the MILF is a rebel group, understandably they would steer clear of any implicit submission to the Constitution of the enemy.

What I wonder about is: Sure, let's use another name, but why the bland neutral sounding "Juridical Entity"? The reason, I venture, is that any other term is too loaded for either side. "Bangsamoro State"? As if we couldn't even be more hysterical than we are right now, as in "Arroyo became president to preside over the dismemberment of the Republic." "Bangsamoro Region"? Well, maybe it's the MILF's turn to be outraged, as in "My uncle fought in a war, and all he got for me was this T-shirt!"

Two, the agreement, to its credit, uses the concept of "ancestral domain" to characterize the Bangsamoro people's right to their territory and its resources. Ancestral domain is a claim reserved for what international law calls "indigenous peoples" (or IPs) and what our Constitution calls "indigenous cultural communities." The very first lines of the agreement say that the Bangsamoro people includes "all Moros and all indigenous peoples of Mindanao." For sure, there are genuine IPs in Mindanao, and they are certainly entitled to their ancestral domains, but Muslim Filipinos might be difficult to call as IPs, unless we classify Islam as an indigenous religion. My guess is that this is the most acceptable and least provocative of concepts. The alternatives lie on either extreme: on one hand, the "Bangsamoro peoples' right to self-determination" (incendiary language for Manila) and, on the other, the Article 27 nondiscrimination rights of "ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities" (too mild for the MILF, understandably, given several centuries' history of exclusion and dispossession).

Third, the agreement, again rather creatively, extends ancestral domain claims to maritime zones, and adopts the language of the Law of the Sea. At this point, we sail into stormy waters. Control over internal waters (like lakes and rivers) and the territorial sea (in international law, a band of sea within 12 nautical miles around the coastline) is vested in sovereigns, and our Juridical Entity is starting to appear like a state!

Finally, the Constitution lists only nine items that may be devolved to the autonomous region, and says that any powers not delegated are deemed retained by the national government. Among those reserved powers are foreign relations and finance. Contrast that to the powers of the Juridical Entity: "to enter into any economic cooperation and trade relations with foreign countries"; "open trade missions in foreign countries"; the right to "participat[e] in [Philippine official missions and delegations] in international meetings …, e.g. ASEAN meetings and … the United Nations"; and develop its own "financial and banking" institutions.

I agree with lawyer and peace activist Soliman Santos, who published his master's thesis in Melbourne, "The Moro Islamic Challenge: Constitutional Rethinking," that constitutional reform is a legitimate enterprise, especially when warring groups talk peace. "To seek constitutional change (e.g., a shift to federalism) has not been usually treated as unconstitutional, except it seems when it has to do with the Moro question."

But equally legitimate are our concerns about the bona fides of both sides to the agreement. The pact includes profit-sharing arrangements on the expected windfall from natural resource exploitation. Anybody who knows the record of both Malacañang and of the ARMM in the able and honest disposition of the public wealth should be frightened. The pact requires constitutional change (deliberately, I venture) and we are rightly uneasy that the genuine and historic grievances of Muslim Filipinos are being used for the cheap workaday politics of greed and ambition.

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com.

The path we have passed

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

"Kaagi" is the Cebuano word for history. It is my favorite because it is most descriptive. "Kaagi" literally means "the way or path we have passed," and it can also mean history. Some people translate history into its Spanish form "historia" and transform it orthographically into Filipino as "historya." From here one goes further into the word "kasaysayan," which we take for history, but I have not seen the word used this way in the friar dictionaries of the 17th and 18th centuries.

Reflecting on the Filipino word for history was not part of my Ateneo (Jesuit) education and I'm glad I took the time to cross Katipunan and sit in classes at University of the Philippines, Diliman. Philippine prehistory, handled by the late E. Arsenio Manuel, made me appreciate our past before we had written records. Serafin D. Quiason introduced me to the 17th- and 18th-century Philippines. Milagros Guerrero showed me that there's a lot more to the Philippine Revolution than Teodoro Agoncillo's "Revolt of the Masses." Prospero Covar made me aware of cults honoring Rizal as God. All these classes were memorable because I chose the subjects that interested me. Since I was not being graded, I was not pressured to learn or perform during class discussions.

Most memorable for its energy level was the Philippine historiography class under Zeus Salazar, whose famous pedagogical method was best described in one word: terrorism. Undergraduate students were agitated and scared to be grilled during graded recitation, hence they gave the teacher two nicknames behind his back. Since Salazar taught in Filipino they changed his Greek name Zeus into "Bathala." Because his class was more rant than rave, they called him "Zeus Sa-lahat-asar."

In this class Salazar developed his view of historiography better known in academic history circles as "Pantayong Pananaw," an inclusive Filipino viewpoint that will be discussed in a future column. Salazar began by tracing the word history from its Greek original that means "inquiry" to its present English word whose root word is "story." He then explained that it was the same for the French "histoire," German with "gesichte," and Spanish "historia." Then he ordered us to always use the word "kasaysayan" over "historya" because the latter was simply rooted in "story" while the former had two root words "salaysay" (narrative or story) and more importantly "saysay" (sense or meaning).

What was the significance of a simple story about the past (salaysay) if it did not have meaning (saysay)? That made a lot of sense.

At the time, I did not consult friar dictionaries because the only time "kasaysayan" appears is in the 19th-century Vocabulario de la lengua tagala by the friars Noceda and Sanlucar. The Spanish word was "historietta" whose meaning in Tagalog was given as "monting salitang ualang casaysayan" (a small [insignificant?] word that has no meaning).

Since then, each time I travel outside Manila, I ask for the word "history" in other Philippine languages. And for literary reasons rather than academic, I am quite drawn to the Cebuano "kaagi," the path we have passed.

Last Monday, with the stunning Gov. Gwen Garcia of Cebu province, we unveiled two bronze markers on the doors of the Cebu Capitol declaring the structure as a National Historical Landmark now protected by law, a significant historical building whose original features cannot be altered without consultation with the National Historical Institute. When we unveiled the first marker, some people gasped under their breath, "Ay! Tagalog!"

The question of the national language is still an issue seven decades after Manuel L. Quezon declared Tagalog (now Tagalog-based Filipino) as our national language. In most cases people uncomfortable with Filipino request, at their expense, a second historical marker with the Filipino text in English! Not in Cebu. It was agreed that a second marker be made in Cebuano, the language of the place.

Cebuano, like other Philippine languages, is often referred to in a derogatory way as a "dialect." This stems from ignorance and a colonial mentality that established the primacy of English over all our "local" languages and "dialects."

This is the first time the National Historical Institute has fabricated a marker in a Philippine language, underscoring the fact that we must all learn Filipino with, and not at the expense of, the other Philippine languages.

The Cebu Capitol, designed by Juan Arellano, is an impressive building etched with text that reminds the officials and employees who work inside that "the authority of government emanates from the people." Inaugurated in 1938 by Quezon, who traveled to Cebu on the yacht "Casiana," and blessed by Cebu Archbishop Gabriel Reyes, the Capitol is in a splendid state today. Newspaper accounts of the Quezon visit said rain attended his arrival, but did not diminish the warm welcome of thousands of people who lined the port to catch a glimpse of him. What marred the visit was the news that a Cebu policeman shot civilians, killing one and wounding two.

Quezon arrived in Opon a day before the inauguration and visited the Magellan monument, which still exists today but has become just a detail in what is better known as the Lapu-lapu Shrine that marks the Battle of Mactan in 1521. Even in the interpretation of 1521 we have come a long way, and it is good to know the path we have passed or kaagi.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Samu't Sari

STIMULUS MEETING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Filipino nonresident workers who have not received their federal stimulus check gather for a meeting hosted by the Coalition of United Workers (NMI) at the American Memorial Park amphitheater Tuesday night.

ISA BAR

Palms Resort Saipan staff members gather for a photo during the opening of the hotel's Isa Bar last week. The inauguration of the island's newest bar attracted hundreds of local guests and tourists during the three-day event.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

'STEP UP'

The girls from Rhythm 'n' Body Crew dance to the song *Show Off That Body* from the movie *Step Up* during a special performance at the Garapan Street Market Thursday night.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JOYOUS EVENT

Jireh Ann Javier Flores, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony and Jenny Flores, during her dedication to the Lord last Saturday at Saipan Grand Hotel's AOI Japanese Restaurant.

DEDICATION

Rev. and Mrs. Rufino and Rebecca Javier with their granddaughter Jireh Ann Javier Flores, daughter Jenny J. Flores, and son Jemar Javier during Jireh Ann's dedication to the Lord held at Saipan Grand Hotel's AOI Japanese Restaurant last Saturday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

'SAY CHEESE!'

Diane, Joanalyn, Hanako, Rachel, Reica, Aime and Tintin strike a pose before performing at the Garapan Street Market Thursday night.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

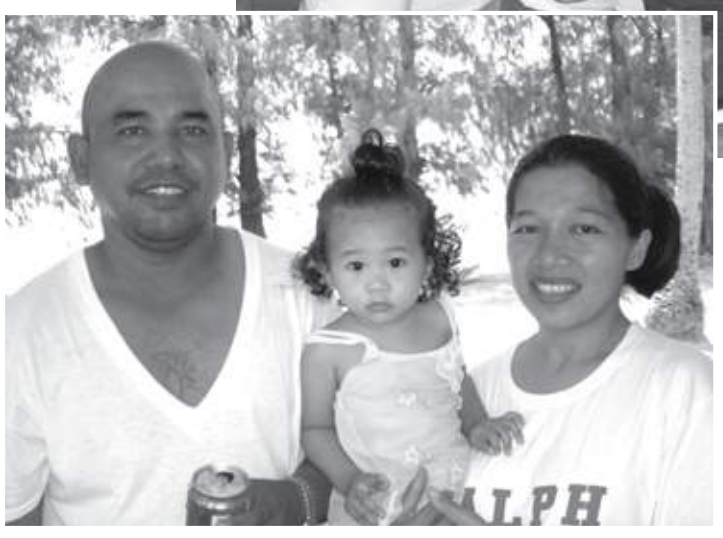
OFW VOLUNTEERS

OFW volunteers pose during the first day of the two-day golf classic Tournament of Champions held Aug. 2 and 3, 2008 at Lao Lao Golf Course, Kagman, Saipan. Standing from left: Ernest Gonzales, Ric Dulay, Noeme Eugenio, Julio Vasquez, Fatima Calderon, Dan Lapeceros, Gina Diva, Melit, Ric Talabucon, Leony Benito, Annalyn Adawag and Bong Moral. Seated from left: Jun Lapeceros, Allan Chavez, Loreta Openia, Lorna Barong, Vicky Ladia, Gloria Villanueva, Rommel Salavaria and Cesar Pantaleon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rhythm 'n' Body Crew gather for a photo after their successful performance at the Garapan Street Market Thursday night.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY GIRL

Belated happy birthday to Angel Grace Mano, who celebrated her first birthday last Sunday, Aug. 3, 2008, at Kilili Beach Pavilion. With her in the photo is her dad Gil and mom Lydia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OFW volunteers pose during the second day of the two-day golf classic Tournament of Champions held Aug. 2 and 3, 2008 at Lao Lao Golf Course, Kagman, Saipan. Standing from left: Ernest Gonzales, Gloria Villanueva, Clemens B, Annalyn Adawag, Leony Benito, Fatima Calderon, Gina Diva, Triny Arellano, Vicky Lladia, Melit and Loreta Openia. Seated from left: Ric Talabucon, Rommel Salavaria, Joseph Domingo, Roger Salavaria and Cesar Pantaleon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youngstyle

Teens share new school year plans

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

First day of school is just around the corner, and its time to get organized by planning ahead of time.

While most are concentrating on forthcoming school activities and clubs, there are also many students who have part-time jobs, are aiming for straight "A" grades, and are involved in community services and events.

Students share with Youngstyle their plans for the incoming school year.

MICHELLE AVILA
18, 1st year at Northern Marianas College, majoring in Education

"I have many plans for this school year as I want to stay in NMC for only two years. During the summer I have applied for scholarships, and now the CNMI scholarship, SHEFA, and AmeriCorp have accepted me.

"In the time being, I hope to get approval from other scholarships, which is Pell, and the Businesswoman of the Year scholarship.

"I also applied for the work-study program offered by the college, and am planning to continue working at National Office Supply and remain a full-time student.

"After this semester, I will get myself a brand new laptop from the savings I have made from school and working."

TANYA DELA CRUZ
17, 12th grade, Kagman High School

"I want have good grades and keep maintaining them. I aim to be involved with more clubs and activities.

"I have already been involved with Mock Trial, National Honor Society, Prom Committee, and Teen Talk.

"This year, I want to take part in all school pep rallies. Last school year, I was the class secretary and I am planning to run again for the same position.

"I plan to apply ahead of time for college and scholarships. Also, I want to learn how to drive before the school year ends.

"After high school, I want to go to college in the mainland—either in California or Oregon—and want to become a pediatrician."

JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
Excited children show off the bags they'd like for the new school year.

JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
Crayons and rulers are just some of the items needed for the new school year.

Summer back-to-school sales

Time for school supplies shopping

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Summer is drawing close to an end, so that means new supplies and new clothes for the upcoming school year.

Stores have everything—from fancy school bags to colorful pens and notebooks, but there is still one thing to keep in mind: Buy only those that are necessary for school.

Before you head to the store, being prepared with a school supplies list of pens, pencils, folders, filler papers, binders, and composition notebooks, etc., would benefit you as you will not forget what items must be prioritized.

"Usually I buy a new binder, notebooks, and pens. My school bag is still in good condition so I wouldn't want to buy a new one," says Madalyn Guevarra, an upcoming senior at Marianas High School.

Although one can buy supplies without a list, it might be best to wait until your teacher gives you one or tells you what to buy during your first class.

You can also use lists from previous school years for the upcoming year if your course schedule is about the same.

Kevin Razon, an upcoming junior at Marianas High School, is being conservative as he will use some supplies he hasn't used in the previous school year.

"I have a few leftover supplies, so I can use those for the upcoming school year, and if I need anything else, well then I will go out and buy more supplies. I wouldn't want to waste my money and the supplies I had from the previous year," said Razon.

Once you have narrowed down your supplies list, it's time to buy your items.

Early school supplies shopping will help you avoid waiting in long lines and finding needed items may go out of stock.

The new school year also means new clothes.

TIPS

- Use past supplies
- Use old composition notebook if less than 10 to 15 pages were used
- Tape up old plastic folders and binders
- Use your supply list from school
- Recycle items from the year before
- Take advantage from the sale, so get enough to last you though the year

UOL kicks off orientations

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
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JUNIOR REPORTER

University of Loyola has kicked off its series of orientations for Fall 2008.

According to the newly established institution, approximately 60 residents attended the first orientation held July 23 at the fourth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

University president Dr. Johnny Fong led the orientations and answered all questions, together with school officials Rick Brien and Haidee Eugenio.

"Most of the people that came to the first orientation were from the community, and most were contract workers or foreign workers," said Brien.

The fledgling university offers the following majors: Business administration, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Nursing. It also offer a "study now, pay later" program for local and foreign workers.

The start of classes is on Sept. 8, 2008.

Orientations will be every Mondays, Wednesdays at 6pm and Saturdays at 10am until the school opens.

Currently, the school does not accept scholarships such as the Pell, SHEFA, and CNMI Scholarships.

For additional information, you can visit their website at www.uolcnmi.com or call them at 234-8008.

AP
Local residents and foreign workers attended the first orientation last July 23 at the University of Loyola.

Kids talk with TV chefs the Neelys

By WHITNEY HARRISON, SAMAYAH TOUSSAINT and AMIA CHASE
KIDSDAY STAFF REPORTERS

(c) 2008, Newsday

We met with celebrity chefs Pat and Gina Neely at a TV studio in Manhattan recently. Their Food Network show is "Down Home With the Neelys." After watching them film their TV segments, we made some delicious desserts and asked a few questions.

Pat and Gina Neely

Question: Who cleans the dishes?

Gina: We both do. We can both clean as we go; depends on what you are cooking. When something is in the oven, you can go ahead and do the dishes.

Pat: Sometimes we wait until after we are finished eating and we will stack them up for another 15 or 20 minutes and then do the dishes and wipe the counters and everything. It really gives your stomach time to digest it.

Q: Tell us one thing you despise about cooking?

Gina: Probably where it goes. If I could just stay a skinny size and eat all I want, but for some reason it always ends up in places where it shouldn't. I love to eat, so it is a losing battle.

Pat: I hate the temperature. If I cook at home and it gets too hot or we have barbecue restaurants and in the summertime I hate the heat.

Otherwise, I like making the dishes. Sometimes I hate to clean the kitchen up, too.

Q: Who is the better cook?

Gina: We both are.

Pat: We both are great in our own areas. When we are at home, I will do a lot of the grilling in the backyard. Miss Gina is inside making the potato salad, coleslaw and making greens. I could never do what she does. I could never make collard greens as good as she does.

Gina: He is better at stews and soups, because he grew up with them.

Everybody has something different that they can bring. That is what makes it nice when we cook together.

Q: What is your favorite dish to make?

Pat: I love . . . anything I can put on that grill. I could cook a whole dinner on the grill.

Gina: My favorite dish is my collard greens.

Q: Spicy or barbecue?

Gina: I always like a little kick! You gotta add a little spice to it.

Pat: It depends. I love barbecue, but a lot of my dishes have spice to them. If I eat Gina's greens, I like some hot sauce on it. It depends on what it is.

...with Nickelodeon's Qaasim Middleton

By LAVINA LIM, LAUREN SKAATS and MATTHEW TOBIAS
KIDSDAY STAFF REPORTERS

(c) 2008, Newsday

We recently spoke with 13-year-old Brooklynite Qaasim Middleton (Qaasim on "The Naked Brothers Band") at the Nickelodeon offices in Manhattan.

Question: How are you like and not like your character?

Answer: I am like my character because we both study math really hard, though I'm not as smart as my character. I practice my guitar as much as my character does, actually a little bit less. ... I'm unlike my character because I might have `stupid attacks,' like when I spilled the milk this morning . . . but I do not do stupid things like my character. I don't do pranks.

Q: Who is your closest friend in the band?

A: We're like brothers and sisters. I actually have to say everyone. I can't choose.

Q: What is your favorite Naked Brothers Band song?

A: That's hard . . . my top three would be "Run," "Body I Occupy" and "I Don't Want to Go to School."

Q: What is your favorite type of music and favorite artist?

A: Hip-hop and a little bit of rock. I really only listen to very positive rappers like Mos Def or anyone who doesn't degrade the environment and talk about money or (negatively) about women. And my dad and my mom are my favorite artists. (His dad, Keith Middleton, is a cast member of "Stomp," and his mom is Toni Seawright, an actress-singer-songwriter.)

Q: You play a lot of musical instruments; which is your favorite?

A: The guitar is new (for me). The instruments I feel closest with are the drums. One of my favorite instruments is my voice.

Q: In "Sidekicks," you asked four girls to the same dance. Did you ever do that in real life?

A: Nope! . . . I'm not like that. I don't do stupidness.

Q: What was your favorite part in "Sidekicks"?

A: When I was running from the girls, because I like dodging people, especially girls.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

A: Play video games. A favorite is "Warcraft III".

...and with figure skater Sasha Cohen

By TESS GEORGE, KATIE KIRK and SYDNEY LEONE
KIDSDAY STAFF REPORTERS

(c) 2008, Newsday

We interviewed 23-year-old U.S. figure skater Sasha Cohen in Manhattan recently.

Question: What is your favorite thing about skating?

Answer: I love the challenge of a new trick and then when you nail it under pressure in front of a lot of people.

Q: How do you prepare before you perform?

A: I warm up really well. I try to get a lot of rest and listen to my favorite music and stay positive.

Q: What does it feel like to be in the Olympics?

A: It is amazing to be able to compete with people from all over the world and to meet your teammates who represent the skiing, the snowboarding and all the different sports you have never been around before. It is a lot of fun.

Q: Are there any other hobbies that you are interested in besides skating?

A: I love fashion design. I like to cook, I like acting and I love to travel.

Q: Once you fall during a performance, is it hard to keep going?

A: Definitely. It is the hardest thing you learn to recover from. You just have to stay in the moment and let go of the past in order to finish the program well.

U.S. figure skater Sasha Cohen

Q: Do you think you will still be involved with skating when you retire?

A: I think there is a part of me that will always be involved with skating.

I will definitely never be a coach or a judge, but maybe I'll commentate sometimes. I will definitely watch and see where the sport goes.

Q: Tell us about the movies you have been in?

A: I have been in a couple. I was in "Blades of Glory," "Bratz" and "Moondance Alexander". They were all so much fun. It is different being on set because you wait around all day and then you shoot like two minutes and it is very different than being any athlete.

Q: Is there a reason why you started to act?

A: I love being around other people, working with them and I have always been a drama queen. And it's fun just to pretend to be someone else.

Kids in the Kitchen

ITALIAN COOKIES

By Brianna Columbo, Jessica Guerra and John Napolitano, Kidsday Chefs

(c) 2008, Newsday

1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter, softened
1/2 cup sugar
2 eggs
1/2 cup orange juice
1/4 cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon lemon extract
4 cups flour
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
Glaze:
1 egg
1 tablespoon orange juice

1. In a large bowl, beat butter, sugar and 2 eggs with an electric mixer until combined. Add 1/2 cup orange juice, milk, and vanilla and lemon extracts; mix well.

2. In another bowl, combine flour and baking powder. Gradually stir into butter mixture, kneading at end to combine.

3. Roll 1-inch balls of dough into "S" shapes on a lightly floured board. Place on lightly greased baking sheets.

4. For glaze, beat an egg with 1 tablespoon orange juice. Brush on top of cookies. Bake in a preheated, 350-degree oven for 12 to 15 minutes, or until golden. Makes 3 dozen.

CREPES

By Sarah-Jane Lynn, Kidsday Chef

1 cup flour
1 1/2 cups milk
3 eggs, beaten
1 teaspoon vegetable oil
1/4 teaspoon salt
Optional toppings: Fresh strawberries or blueberries, jam, or sifted confectioners' sugar

1. Blend flour and milk in a blender. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour batter into a bowl and refrigerate for 1 hour.

2. Heat a lightly oiled skillet (or crepe pan) over medium until hot. Pour 1/2 cup batter into pan. When bottom becomes lightly browned (about 2 minutes), flip over and cook on other side. Top with fresh berries, jam or sifted confectioners' sugar, if desired.

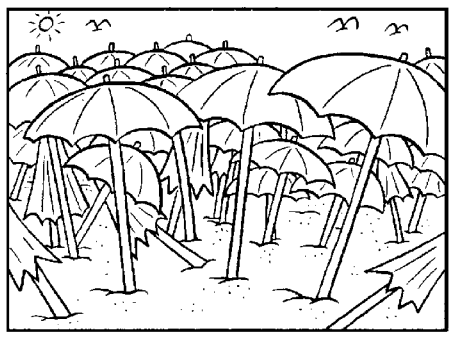
KATIE'S NACHOS

By Katie Beach, Kidsday Chef

1 (13-ounce) bag tortilla chips
1 (8-ounce) package shredded Cheddar cheese
4 scallions, sliced
4 tomatoes, diced
Optional toppings:
Salsa
Sour cream
Guacamole

1. Cover the bottom of a rectangular jelly roll pan (or a 9-by-13-inch baking pan) with aluminum foil. Then spread tortilla chips evenly on top. Sprinkle the cheese evenly over the chips. Then sprinkle scallions and tomatoes on top of the cheese. Put the pan under a preheated broiler for at least two minutes. Watch it so it doesn't burn. You'll know it's done when the cheese is nicely melted.

2. For a variety of flavors, top the nachos with salsa, sour cream and, my favorite, guacamole.



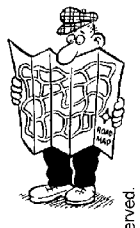
IT'S A SCORCHER AT THE BEACH! At $5 an umbrella, how much money has this rental stand made today?

Answer: We found 31 umbrellas, for a profit of $155.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

R	E	T	P	O	C	I	L	E	H	E	S	Y	Y	
R	A	C	T	E	E	R	T	S	N	L	U	G	A	
N	O	G	A	W	B	M	G	A	V	C	B	G	C	
K	C	T	W	T	R	O	L	L	E	Y	W	U	H	
T	A	N	C	B	K	P	I	H	S	C	A	B	T	
E	N	Y	I	A	R	E	D	G	N	I	Y	L	F	
J	O	K	A	I	R	D	E	G	T	R	A	I	N	
S	E	T	A	K	S	T	R	L	O	T	U	A	R	



WORLD 'SERIES' NUMBERS! See if you can figure out what the next number is in the series of numbers below.

77, 49, 36, 18...?

Answer: The next number is 8. Each number in the series is the product of the two digits in the preceding number: (7 x 7 = 49, 4 x 9 = 36, 3 x 6 = 18, 1 x 8 = 8.

CAN YOU 'DOWN-LOAD' THE WORDS WE'RE LOOKING FOR? Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.

1. Part of a card game.
2. Used in power plants.
3. What happens to trees.
4. When the day begins.

GRID A

D			
	O		
		W	
			N

GRID B

L			
	O		
		A	
			D

1. Very heavy metal.
2. Great on a hot day.
3. Large white bird.
4. A magical stick.

Answers: 1. Deal-lead. 2. Coal-cola. 3. Sawn-swan. 4. Dawn-wand

GETTING FROM HERE TO THERE!
Hidden in the diagram above are 23 ways you can get from HERE to THERE. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the items that you're looking for:

Airplane	Glider	Subway
Auto	Helicopter	Tractor
Bike	Jet	Train
Buggy	Kayak	Tricycle
Bus	Moped	Trolley
Canoe	Ship	Wagon
Cart	Skates	Yacht
Flying	Streetcar	

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Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ It's been reported that after an earthquake in San Francisco, Barbara Boxer, the junior senator from California, made the following comment: "Those who died, their lives will never be the same again."

■ Most people realize that the original Siamese twins, Chang and Eng, were born in Siam (now Thailand). Many would be surprised to learn, though, that after being exhibited as a curiosity on P.T. Barnum's world tour, they became naturalized citizens of the United States, putting down roots in North Carolina in 1839, adopting "Bunker" as their last name, settling on a plantation and buying slaves. They married sisters and, between the two of them, had 22 children. It's also been reported, though not confirmed, that they dreamed the same dreams when they slept.

■ Yes, Barbie has a last name. It's Roberts.

■ Director Wes Craven reportedly named the character Freddy Krueger, from the "Nightmare on Elm Street" horror films, after a kid who had bullied him in school.

■ Next time you feel a yawn coming on, you might want to be careful: Those who study such things say that if your yawn is too wide, you could break your jaw. Also, if you stretch while you yawn, you could dislocate your shoulder.

■ A 15th-century man named Lodovico Cortusio evidently hated any and all expressions of grief. In fact, he forbade anyone to mourn at his funeral after his death on July 17, 1418. In his last will and testament, he specified that the person who laughed the most at his funeral would inherit the most, while anyone who cried would be disinherited.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "He may be mad, but there's method in his madness. There nearly always is method in madness. It's what drives men mad, being methodical." -- G.K. Chesterton

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MAGIC MAZE ● VAN — : SURNAMES

G	Q	N	J	G	S	D	A	X	U	R	O	L	J	G
D	A	X	V	S	P	L	N	K	I	F	F	C	A	X
V	S	Q	O	L	J	H	A	E	A	C	A	X	V	T
R	P	N	L	J	H	F	D	A	B	D	E	Y	X	V
T	R	P	O	M	K	I	R	G	W	E	D	E	P	E
D	B	Z	X	N	N	G	N	W	G	R	L	U	M	L
T	R	Q	E	B	E	E	T	H	O	V	E	N	A	K
O	N	L	L	D	R	K	S	J	G	E	V	D	C	N
I	L	G	F	O	U	C	Y	U	H	E	E	Y	D	I
A	C	A	D	Y	B	Y	X	D	E	R	D	W	V	W
T	S	R	P	O	N	E	M	M	A	D	L	K	J	I

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Allen	Damme	Der Waals	Dyken
Beethoven	de Graaf	Deusen	Eyck
Buren	de Velde	Doren	Gogh
Camp	Der Veer	Dyck	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	–		x		16
x		+		+	
	+		÷		3
+		x		x	
	x		+		29
34		28		13	

1 1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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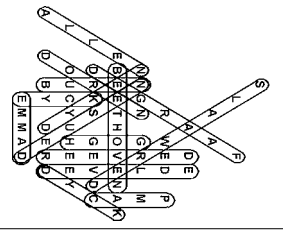
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



VAN — : SURNAMES

GO FIGURE ANSWER

	13		28		34
29	1	+	4	x	7
	x		x		+
3	5	÷	6	+	9
	+		+		x
16	8	x	1	–	3

Dog makes odd breathing noise

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Recently, I had my 9-year-old, part-poodle/Maltese dog's teeth cleaned. The vet had to pull two teeth as well. Since this was done, "Scoobie" seems to make an odd noise as he is breathing. I feel like this is due to the tube they put down his throat as they cleaned his teeth. When I got him home, he had a hacking cough, which subsided about three days later. But the noise he makes when breathing continues. He doesn't seem to be in pain, though. I like our vet a lot and hate to question him, so hopefully you can help me out or let me know what I could ask the vet.

-- Valeeta R., Montgomery, Ala.

DEAR VALEETA: A good veterinarian will not mind extra questions from a pet owner, so I encourage you to contact your vet and describe Scoobie's breathing noise.

In fact, you should go ahead and bring Scoobie in to have the vet check out the noise in person so he can rule out any serious issues. Pets that are put under general anesthesia for certain procedures (such as the tooth scaling Scoobie had) can develop complications afterward ranging from stress reactions to major health emergencies. Don't be worried about bothering your vet—your dog's health is the most important thing here.

Ask lots of questions, and insist on straightforward answers from the vet—not answers designed just to make you feel better. If afterward you feel that you didn't receive satisfactory answers, or if Scoobie doesn't improve, take your dog to another vet for a second opinion.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Make very fishy prints

Fish printing is a beautiful, ancient art form that has made its way to children's museums, art classes and summer camps. Make terrific trophy prints with your young angler's catch, but if they are "catch and release" anglers, buy a whole fish at the supermarket for this activity.

You'll find the fish prints are not only lovely to look at but fascinating too. Whether you print them on a T-shirt, or on a cotton square for a simple summer flag, notice the exquisite and delicate detail in the scales. Suddenly what might have seemed like an ordinary fish will be intriguing!

Let's get started:

Gently wash your fish and pat it dry with a paper towel. Stuff cotton balls or paper under the gills and lateral fins to absorb any excess moisture.

Place the fish on a stack of clean newspaper. Brush acrylic fabric paint on the fish including the fins and tail. And feel free to use more than one color. There are rainbow fish, of course! Try not to go too heavy on the paint, because it may cloud the delicate detail of the fish and thus the print.

Center a cotton T-shirt, apron or square piece of plain cotton fabric over the fish, then lay it down. Starting at the center of the fish, press the cloth on the fish and methodically rub the design with your fingers, working toward the edges.

Gently peel the T-shirt or cloth from the fish, and lay it out to dry. After the paint has dried, follow directions on the paint bottle for setting the paint with an iron. To make a flag, tape or glue one side of the fabric square to a dowel or smooth stick.

TIPS:

--To prevent paint from penetrating to the back of the T-Shirt, place hands in a large, smooth plastic bag, and put them in between the front of the back of the shirt. Press the cloth on the fish from inside the shirt with your plastic-bag-covered hands.

--If you don't wish to use a real fish, use a picture or photo for a guide, then paint one.

Squeeze out paint from a squeeze bottle to make a basic shape, and then use more paint and a paintbrush to fill in the center. Glue a rhinestone for an eye, if you wish.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Lucas says 'Indiana Jones' needs Ford to continue

NICASIO, Calif. (AP)—George Lucas says he's already identified the one person who can keep the "Indiana Jones" franchise going: Harrison Ford.

The filmmaker scoffed at the possibility of passing the famed fedora from Ford to Shia LaBeouf, the 22-year-old actor who played Indy's son Mutt Williams in this summer's "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."

"He is Indiana Jones," Lucas said of Ford. "If Indiana Jones wasn't in it, you'd have to call it 'Mutt Williams and the search for Elvis.' ... "Yeah, it's 'Mutt Williams and the Search for Elvis.'"

Lucas sat down with AP Television at his Big Rock Ranch outside San Francisco, where he said he didn't pay much attention to the reception from critics and fans to "Crystal Skull," a sci-fi adventure set in the 1950s. But he definitely sees a future for Dr. Jones. A fifth movie is certainly a possibility.

"The franchise really depends on me coming up with a good idea," Lucas said. "And that series is very research-intensive. So we're doing research now to see if we can't come up with another object for him to chase ... hopefully we'll come up with something."

Lucas

Meanwhile, the 64-year-old has another popular franchise to nurture: "Star Wars."

Lucas produced the animated "Star Wars: Clone Wars," hitting theaters Aug. 15. It will be followed in the fall with the launch of an animated TV series by the same name, airing on the Cartoon Network and TNT. Lucas plans a live-action "Star Wars" TV series as well, and he's also looking into re-releasing the six "Star Wars" films using new 3-D technology.

"We're trying to do that," Lucas said. "We worked on some, with a company that was developing the technology a few years ago to convert films into 3-D, we worked with them. But the system works great. It's just not very practical. So what we've been working on since then is to develop a sort of practical way to do it. And we will get there. It's just a technological challenge."

The producer-director waxed nostalgic for the days when talking to the press wasn't necessary to promote a film.

"I like when you focus on making movies, you make movies and people go to see them," he said. "But there's this whole other industry that's been created which the world hasn't quite adjusted to or caught up to or figured out. It's the same thing with copyright and all kinds of other things where things are going around that I'm sure at some point will become more civilized. I'm just waiting. Like Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, I'll go out and adopt twins if they'll pay me $14 million to do it."

Court orders end to suit filed by Tim Burton's ex

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A long-running lawsuit filed by Tim Burton's ex-girlfriend over his assets should be dismissed, an appeals court has ruled.

The California Court of Appeals issued a ruling on Wednesday ordering a lower court judge to grant a motion by Burton's attorneys for a summary judgment.

The move halts a trial scheduled for next week that would have focused on the couple's nearly decade-long relationship, which ended in 2001.

Burton's longtime girlfriend, Lisa Marie, sued the director in 2006. She claimed that she was cheated out of money that Burton had promised her during their relationship.

Burton countered in court documents that he paid Marie $5.5 million. Marie signed an agreement waiving her rights to his future assets and should have to return the millions if she did not want to abide by the contract, Burton's attorneys argued.

Marie countered in court filings that she felt coerced to sign the contract and that Burton promised to take care of her "financial support and needs for the rest of her life."

In July, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Teresa Sanchez-Gordon denied a motion by Burton's attorneys to have the case thrown out. She can argue why her decision should be upheld, but must file a response by mid-September.

Attorneys representing Marie did not return calls seeking comment Thursday afternoon.

Burton met Marie, a former Calvin Klein model, at a club in 1991. He cast her in several of his films, including "Ed Wood," "Mars Attacks" and a "Planet of the Apes" remake.

Burton met Helena Bonham Carter, whom he is currently dating, while filming "Planet of the Apes." The couple have two children.

Usher's mother back as his manager after split

NEW YORK (AP)—Usher's mother is back as his manager following a much publicized split. The 29-year-old superstar announced Thursday that he has ended his partnership with celebrity manager Benny Medina, whose clients include Mariah Carey, and has rehired Jonnetta Patton.

Usher

Patton had managed her son's career since he was a teen star. But the multiplatinum performer broke with his mother in 2007, saying he just wanted her to focus on being his mom.

While there were reports of friction between Patton and her son, Usher had said the relationship was great and had improved since their professional union ended.

"I have just chosen to take the reins of my career," he told The Associated Press in an interview earlier this year. "We have a different view and mind-set. I'm doing it and I'm handling it and very happy, very happy with it."

Although Usher's new album, "Here I Stand," debuted at the top of the charts when it was released in May and has resulted in a No. 1 smash with "Love in This Club," it has yet to pass the 1 million mark in sales (it has sold about 948,000 copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan.) In comparison, his last album, "Confessions," sold 1.1 million copies in its first week when it was released in 2004 on its way to more than 8 million copies sold in the United States alone.

The new album is a more mature CD that reflects his recent marriage and birth of his son, with few club anthems and more ballads about relationships and commitment.

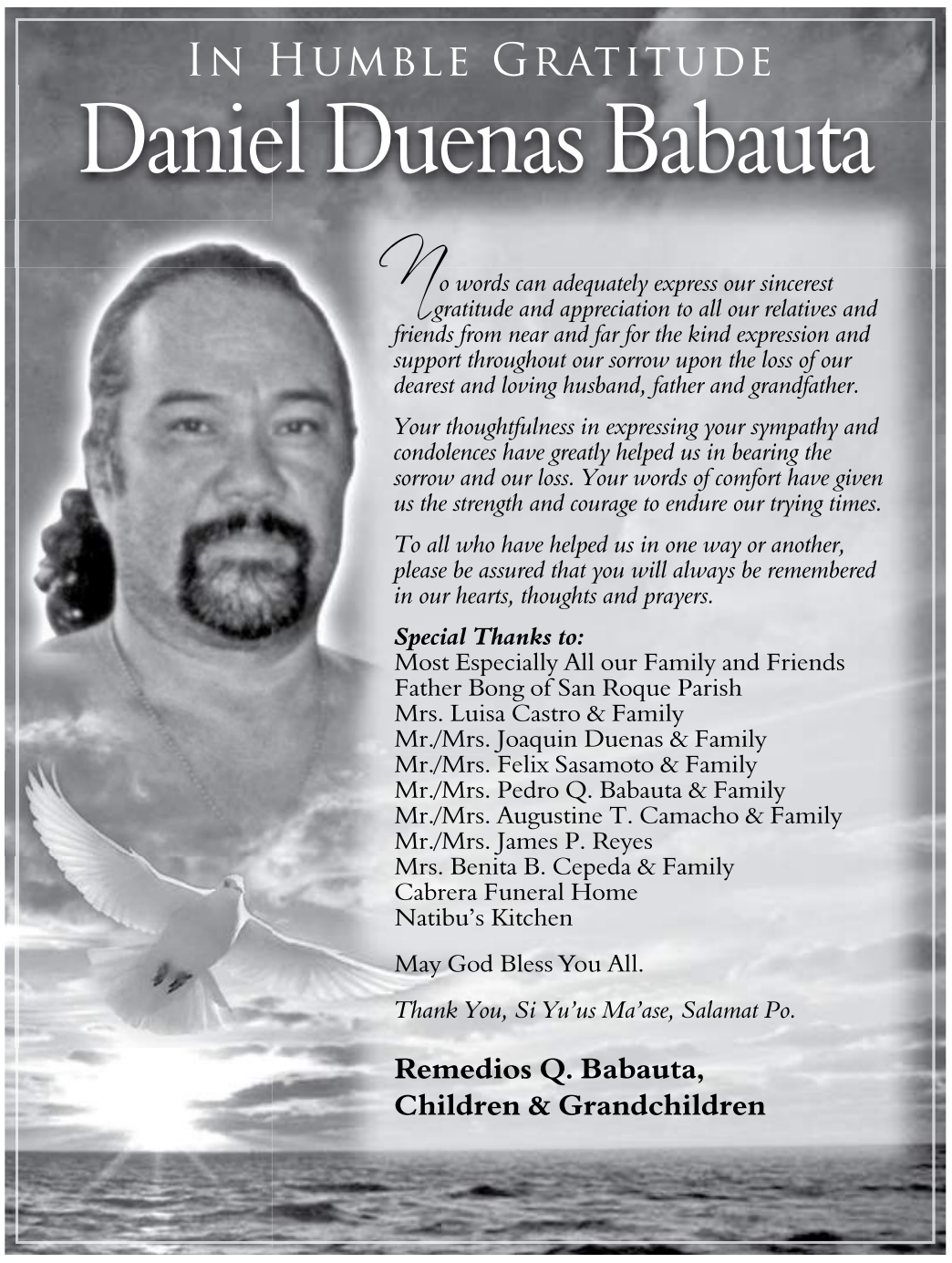
In a statement, Medina celebrated the success of "Here I Stand," while noting that the industry climate has changed since "Confessions" was released. Successes like "Confessions" are even more rare today; last year's best-selling album, Josh Groban's "Noel," sold 3.7 million copies.

"It is a completely new day and time in music now," he said.

"In four years, his audience, demographic and musical direction has changed. Records like Lil Wayne's 'Lollipop' are the type of phenomena that 'Yeah' was in 2004," Medina said, referring to the rapper's No. 1 smash this year and Usher's chart-topping hit four years ago.

Lil Wayne was the only artist to reach 1 million in first-week sales this year with the release of "Tha Carter III," so far the year's best-selling album with 2 million copies sold.

"I had a great time and we parted ways amicably," Medina said.


IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE
Daniel Duenas Babauta
No words can adequately express our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to all our relatives and friends from near and far for the kind expression and support throughout our sorrow upon the loss of our dearest and loving husband, father and grandfather.
Your thoughtfulness in expressing your sympathy and condolences have greatly helped us in bearing the sorrow and our loss. Your words of comfort have given us the strength and courage to endure our trying times.
To all who have helped us in one way or another, please be assured that you will always be remembered in our hearts, thoughts and prayers.
Special Thanks to:
Most Especially All our Family and Friends
Father Bong of San Roque Parish
Mrs. Luisa Castro & Family
Mr./Mrs. Joaquin Duenas & Family
Mr./Mrs. Felix Sasamoto & Family
Mr./Mrs. Pedro Q. Babauta & Family
Mr./Mrs. Augustine T. Camacho & Family
Mr./Mrs. James P. Reyes
Mrs. Benita B. Cepeda & Family
Cabrera Funeral Home
Natibu's Kitchen
May God Bless You All.
Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Salamat Po.
Remedios Q. Babauta,
Children & Grandchildren

Elvis' peacock jumpsuit sells for $300K

NEW YORK (AP)—Elvis Presley's favorite performance costume, the peacock jumpsuit, sold for $300,000 Thursday, making it the most expensive piece of Elvis memorabilia sold at auction.

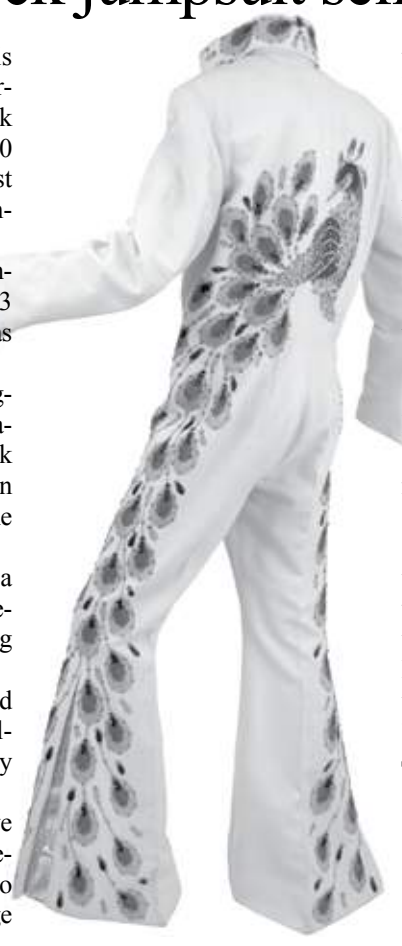
The online sale by auctioneer Gotta Have It! ended at 3 a.m. The pre-sale estimate was $275,000 to $325,000.

The white outfit with a plunging V-neck and high collar features a blue-and-gold peacock design hand-embroidered on the front and back and along the pant legs.

It is cinched at the waist by a wide belt decorated in gold medallions in a design resembling the eye of a peacock feather.

The auctioneer described the seller as "a big Elvis collector" and declined to say who bought it.

Presley paid $10,000 to have the outfit made by Los Angeles designer Bill Belew, who created all of The King's stage wardrobe between 1968-1977. It captured the rock 'n' roll legend's fascination with peacocks as a good luck symbol and the auction house said it was among his favorite Belew designs.



Elvis first wore the costume at the Forum in Los Angeles on May 11, 1974, and later for the cover of his album "Promised Land."

The previous record for an Elvis collectible is $295,000 for his 1956 Lincoln Continental Mark II.

The most ever paid previously for one of his stage costumes, the so-called aloha cape, which was worn during one of his last television shows, was $105,250. Both were sold at a 1999 auction at Graceland in Memphis, Tenn., run by Guernsey's.

In this handout photo provided by Gotta Have It! Collectibles, the "Peacock" jumpsuit worn by Elvis Presley is seen in this undated photo.

AP

Fashion critic Mr. Blackwell regains consciousness

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Acid-tongued fashion critic Mr. Blackwell regained consciousness in a hospital Thursday as he battled a serious infection, his publicist said.

Richard Blackwell, 85, collapsed at his home and was unconscious when he was brought to the hospital on Tuesday, publicist Harlan Boll said. Blackwell was given antibiotics to treat the unspecified infection.

"He appears to be cognizant of his surrounding and acknowledged his partner, Spencer," Boll said.

Blackwell was a noted fashion designer in the 1950s and 1960s who dressed the likes of Jane Russell and Dorothy Lamour.

However, he is best-known for his annual list of worst-dressed women. First issued in 1960, it has skewered the style sense of Hollywood celebrities, politicians and other celebs with tongue-in-cheek cruelty.

Victoria "Posh Spice" Beckham topped this year's list: "In one skinny-mini monstrosity after another, pouty Posh can really wreck-em," Blackwell snipped.

Singer Amy Winehouse and actress Mary-Kate Olsen were listed second and third.

AP

In this Oct. 19, 2006 file photo, acid-tonged fashion critic Mr. Blackwell, Richard Blackwell, gets a kiss from his declared best dressed dog winner, during an event promoting "Dine With Your Dog Day" at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza, in Los Angeles.

Favre is to be a Packer on 'Madden' cover, Jet inside

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Don't judge Brett Favre in "Madden NFL 09" by his cover.

When the latest edition of the football video game franchise is released Tuesday, it will still feature the quarterback in his Green Bay Packers uniform - despite the fact Favre was traded to the New York Jets.

Favre

But publisher Electronic Arts said it was releasing a downloadable update to make Favre a Jet in the game, as well as new cover art for anyone who wants it.

"We do not plan to reissue packaging but will offer a free downloadable cover in the coming days on easports.com featuring Brett Favre in a Jets uniform," EA Sports said in a statement released Thursday. "Fans can print this new cover out and insert it into the case of 'Madden NFL 09.'"

EA Sports will release a free downloadable update to the game with the Favre character as a Jet - and any other player who signs as a free agent or moves teams - before the start of the regular season. But "Madden NFL 09" will be released Tuesday with the Favre character as a Packer on all-time greats team.

The Packers traded their three-time MVP and Super Bowl-winning quarterback to the Jets on Wednesday, ending months of speculation over Favre's future after he announced he was retiring in March. EA Sports originally unveiled Favre as the cover athlete for the 20th edition of the "Madden" game in April.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

L'Oreal denies lightening Beyonce's skin in ad

NEW YORK (AP)—Cosmetics giant L'Oreal is denying it lightened Beyonce's skin tone in an ad. "We highly value our relationship with Ms. Knowles. It is categorically untrue that L'Oreal Paris altered Ms. Knowles' features or skin tone in the campaign for Feria hair color," the Paris-based company said in a statement sent to the Associated Press through the singer's representative. The ad is in the current edition of Elle magazine. L'Oreal, the maker of Garnier hair care and Lancome cosmetics, is the world's largest cosmetics maker. Beyonce has been a spokeswoman for L'Oreal since 2001.

Lawsuit: Blige stole tunes, including iPod ad

NEW YORK (AP)—Mary J. Blige has been sued in New York for $2 million by a company that says she stole some of the music she used on her latest hit album, including one used on an iPod commercial. The Drama Family Entertainment company filed the lawsuit in federal court in Manhattan on Tuesday. The lawsuit claims the company suffered copyright infringement because the singer's "Growing Pains" album contains the song "Work That." The suit says the song was created by a producer who worked for the company at the time. The song was featured with a silhouetted Blige in an iPod commercial. Apple Inc. isn't named in the lawsuit.

Spokeswoman: Bernie Mac esponding to treatment

CHICAGO (AP)—A spokeswoman for Bernie Mac says the actor is responding well to treatment for pneumonia and hopes to be released in the next few weeks. Publicist Danica Smith said Thursday in a statement that Mac's condition is "stable." Smith first announced on August 1st that Mac was hospitalized in Chicago. Smith has said the pneumonia isn't related to an inflammatory lung disease Mac also has. That condition has been in remission since 2005. The Chicago native made waves last month with off-color jokes during a fundraiser for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama. The comedian starred in the critically acclaimed Fox television series "The Bernie Mac Show." His film credits include roles in the "Ocean's Eleven" franchise.

Morgan Freeman discharged from Tennessee hospital

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Morgan Freeman was discharged Thursday from a Tennessee hospital after the Oscar-winning actor was treated for broken bones and other injuries sustained in a weekend car crash in Mississippi.

Kathy Stringer, a spokeswoman for the Regional Medical Center, said Freeman was discharged but gave no other details.

The 71-year-old actor was hospitalized after the accident Sunday left him with a broken arm, broken elbow and shoulder damage.

Demaris Meyer, 48, of Memphis, a passenger in the car driven by Freeman, was also injured in the crash.

"Access Hollywood" reported Wednesday that Freeman's lawyer, Bill Luckett, said Freeman and his wife of 24 years, Myrna Colley-Lee, had been separated since December and are getting a divorce. Luckett was also quoted in several newspapers Thursday, but did not give further details.

Director sued over death of movie's propmaster

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The parents of an assistant propmaster killed in an accident during the filming of "The Kingdom" have sued director Peter Berg, seeking reimbursement of funeral expenses and other damages.

Berg was traveling in a sport utility vehicle in August 2006 when it collided with a golf cart-sized vehicle on a road near Mesa, Ariz. The impact killed Nick Papac, who was working on the closed set of "The Kingdom," an action thriller starring Jaime Foxx and Jennifer Garner.

Papac's parents, Mike Papac and Michele Bell, filed suit against the director, a driver and a production company in Los Angeles Superior Court on Wednesday. They are asking for an unspecified amount that would include the costs of the funeral, lost earnings and medical expenses.

The film had just finished shooting for the day on a closed stretch of highway on the far eastern side of metropolitan Phoenix when Papac, 25, was struck.

Teacher treated as doormat must learn to take control

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a high school teacher who has been encountering some problems with my students.

I admit my personality is rather bland. My favorite flavor of ice cream is vanilla; my favorite color is beige— you get the picture. I am also aware that I speak in a monotone. My students won't let me hear the end of it.

I know I should enforce discipline, but I don't seem to have any control over my students. They blatantly ridicule my clothing and my voice. Sometimes I even feel bullied. I try to ignore it, but it doesn't seem to end. The entire class participates and finds it hilarious. What can I do to control my students?

TRYING HARD IN TENNESSEE

DEAR TRYING HARD: The first thing to do is talk with the other educators in your school about your inability to enforce discipline. They may be able to offer some valuable suggestions. You should also explore whether the school district offers any classes in assertiveness training. If it doesn't, then please give serious consideration to changing careers, because you are not only shortchanging yourself but also the students you have allowed to turn you into a doormat.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 23-year-old gay man. Five years ago, when I was 18, I became involved with "Jeff," an older married man. My mother worked second shift in a hospital, so I was almost always alone after school. Jeff would spend an hour or two with me three times a week while I was in high school, and spent more time in my apartment when I was in college. He also contributed $6,000 toward my college education.

Now that I have graduated and am working, Jeff has offered me $20,000 as a down payment on a house three doors down from his. He says it's a gift, not a loan. I know there would be no legal obligation to repay him.

I love Jeff, but in five years, when his youngest child is in college, if he doesn't leave his wife, I'll be ready to move on. Would I be ethically obligated to repay him if I left?

Jeff is a very successful businessman. He can well afford to send all five of his children to college, even after having given me this gift. He has told me repeatedly that the last five years with me have been the best years of his life. If I spend another five years with him, he will have had the best 10 years of his life for a $26,000 investment (or about $50 a week). Am I being selfish or smart?

CLOSETED IN INDIANA

DEAR CLOSETED: Neither. In five years, unless you want to look at yourself in the mirror and see someone who sold himself for $50 a week, do not accept the money and move in practically next door. I will offer the same advice to you that I would to a woman in your position. There is little dignity in being someone's secret lover. And the chances of your being hurt if you accept the money are greater than the payoff you're hoping for.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband sometimes does not say goodbye when he ends a conversation on the phone. I feel it is extremely rude, but when I say so, he just jokes about it, which I also consider rude.

What can I do to make my husband realize that he needs to say "goodbye" when ending a phone conversation?

MIFFED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR MIFFED: OK, your husband isn't perfect. However, it's important to carefully pick your battles in a marriage. If this is your husband's worst flaw, you are lucky. Let it go. I'm sure his finer qualities overshadow this lapse in phone etiquette.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

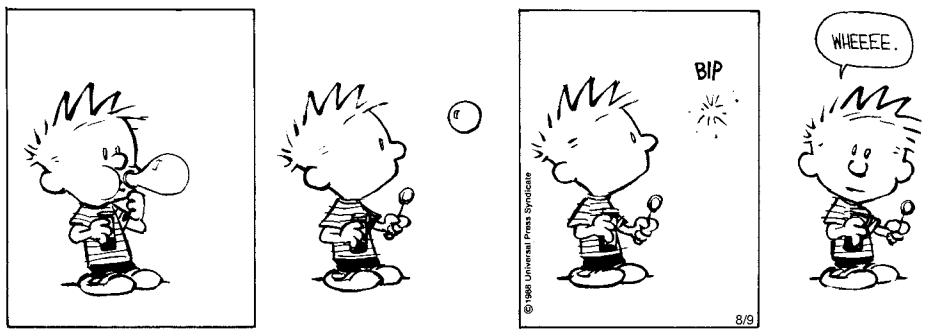
■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'M BACK FROM THE STORE!
SKLISH SKLISH SKLISH SKLISH SKLISH SKLISH
THE SPRAYERS IN THE PRODUCE AISLE GOT ME AGAIN
IN THE RIGHT LIGHT, YOU DO RESEMBLE A GIANT BRUSSELS SPROUT
JIM DAVIS 8-9
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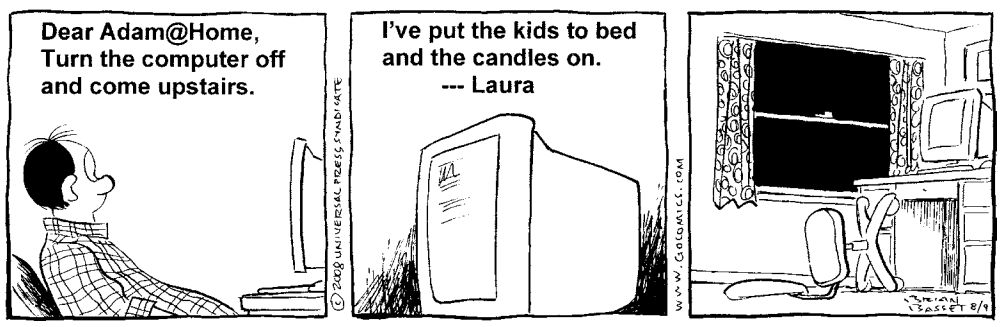
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


Dear Adam@Home, Turn the computer off and come upstairs.
I've put the kids to bed and the candles on. --- Laura
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BASSET 8/9

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I SWEAR, THERE'S NO PLEASING YOU, FANG!
EITHER YOU'RE COMPLAINING BECAUSE I DON'T SHOWER ENOUGH...
...OR ELSE YOU'RE GRIPING BECAUSE I HAVEN'T FIXED THE ROOF!
8-9 Glenn McCoy
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

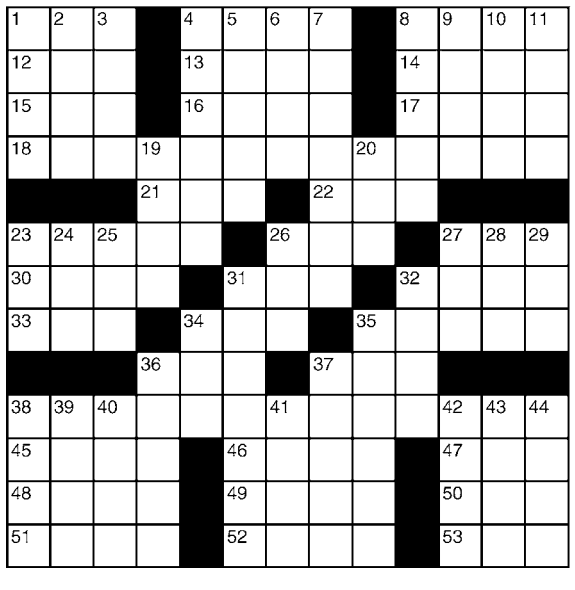
ACROSS
1 The heart of summer?
4 Highway
8 Grand opening day?
12 Snoop Dogg's genre
13 Incite
14 Shrill bark
15 Way back when
16 Resumes, sorta
17 Den
18 In a good position
21 — U.S. Pat. Off.
22 Cartesian conclusion
23 Great praise
26 Pigs' digs
27 Winter ailment
30 Scratched (out)
31 Place-kicker's pride
32 "Buenos —"
33 Evergreen type
34 Solidify
35 British money
36 — au vin
37 Latin 22-Across
38 Future swans
45 Midday
46 Rainbow
47 Anger
48 Actress Spelling
49 Weak, excuse-wise
50 Subway component
51 Oil cartel
52 Pumps up the volume
53 Storm center

DOWN
1 Geological periods
2 Creche trio
3 Lady Macbeth's problem
4 Red rocks
5 Rubber gasket
6 On the edge of one's seat
7 Unprevented by
8 Wood tissue
9 Vegan's no-no
10 Settled down
11 Nimble
19 Walked (on)
20 Bob's longtime partner
23 Crucial
24 Luau music-maker
25 Drop on the lawn
26 Fa-la connector
27 Shark part
28 Fond du —, Wis.
29 Exploit
31 Type of liquor
32 Ms. Moore
34 Pantheon member
35 Throbs
36 Critical one
37 Cut corners
38 "Do — others..."
39 Greasy stuff
40 Traditional tales
41 Pull an all-nighter
42 Pleasant
43 Needing Grecian Formula
44 Withered

Solution time: 27 mins.

J	A	B	■	R	A	M	■	F	E	D	U	P
A	L	A	■	U	P	A	■	L	E	A	S	E
D	I	Y	■	B	O	Y	W	O	N	D	E	R
E	G	O	■	E	L	B	O	W	■	■	■	■
S	N	U	B	■	L	E	O	■	R	A	I	L
■	■	■	O	H	O	■	F	R	E	S	C	O
M	A	I	Z	E	■	■	Y	I	P	E	S	■
A	B	S	O	R	B	■	B	E	G	■	■	■
D	A	M	S	■	E	D	U	■	N	O	S	E
■	■	■	S	E	I	Z	E	■	I	N	N	■
G	I	R	L	C	R	A	Z	Y	■	L	I	D
A	D	I	E	U	■	N	E	E	■	E	D	O
M	O	D	E	M	■	A	D	D	■	D	E	W

Yesterday's answer 8-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Audrey Tautou, 32; Gillian Anderson, 40; Eric Bana, 40; Melanie Griffith, 51

Happy Birthday: Don't give in to false projections and wishful thinking. Nothing comes easy so follow your own path and stick to your principles. If something appears too good to be true, it probably is. Stop fighting to keep things the same when they clearly aren't working for you. Your numbers are 3, 17, 23, 34, 41, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Talk to a trusted friend about something that has been weighing on your mind. Rid yourself of the deadweight in your life. Have a garage sell or donate what you don't use anymore to charity. You'll feel better with less baggage. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Pay close attention to your personal relationships. Someone is likely to disappoint you if you give him or her too much rope. Don't let anyone limit you by dumping his or her responsibilities in your lap. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Abrupt moves will not bode well with the people to whom you are closest. Don't take a business or personal partnership for granted. Express your concerns but don't push your needs on others. Discussions and compromise will lead to an understanding. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Muster up confidence and you will sway someone's opinion and impress others with your insight, plans and ability to take control. Do things with the people you love and they will be overwhelmed with your generosity and thoughtfulness. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): If you are going to stick around home, make plans to fix the place up or to catch up on chores. If you decide to go out, set a strict budget and don't go over it. If you can work extra hours and make some cash, do so. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Follow your heart and say what's on your mind. You may not like everything you hear but it will help you move on or put things in perspective. If someone is being pushy or forceful with you, back away. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't expect everyone else to pick up the slack and do your job. If you shirk your personal responsibilities, someone will overreact and cause double the trouble for you. Expect to be caught and questioned if you stretch the truth. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Let your emotions lead the way and dictate what you do and say next. Once you have your thoughts out in the open, you will get a better idea of what your next move should be. Don't worry. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Stay active and avoid emotional situations that will leave you feeling vulnerable. Expect someone to do the unexpected, leaving you with added responsibilities. An unworthy friendship should be let go. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can do a little business and combine it with a social event. The payback will be a sweet deal. A change in the way you handle business will be forthcoming because of a revelation you have about what people want and will pay for. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take a trip down memory lane and, if you don't like what you see, avoid going back in time. Someone from your past may want to connect but, if this person wasn't good for you in the past, say no. You will feel better about yourself. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Getting emotional may help initially but, once the dust settles, you will be questioned about what really happened. Arguments are a waste of time and will put you in a no-win position. Change your tune if you want to mend a partnership. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are full of surprises and set on turning your vision into reality. You know no boundaries and are strong and set in your ways.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6			3		7			2
	5	9				7	6	
7								5
		7				2		
			1		9			
		3				5		
1								4
	6	2				9	8	
9			4		6			3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	6	1	5	4	3	9	8	2
9	3	5	2	1	8	6	7	4
8	4	2	6	7	9	1	5	3
1	5	7	8	2	6	3	4	9
3	2	4	7	9	5	8	6	1
6	9	8	4	3	1	7	2	5
5	1	6	9	8	2	4	3	7
4	8	3	1	5	7	2	9	6
2	7	9	3	6	4	5	1	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/08

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HEARING AIDS **Solution: 12 letters**

S	F	P	R	R	M	O	D	(W)	A	H	C	N	O	C
P	I	N	N	A	G	O	(E)	N	O	C	I	L	I	S
E	T	G	K	T	E	(A)	D	R	U	M	E	T	A	L
A	S	E	N	N	(R)	H	N	E	L	O	S	S	E	S
K	G	O	L	A	N	A	I	A	L	U	S	R	R	N
E	Y	O	A	L	L	N	T	C	O	S	E	D	O	D
R	U	T	M	P	I	I	U	C	E	W	E	I	E	E
D	M	R	E	M	G	S	A	I	O	R	S	S	I	V
Y	D	D	U	I	T	O	R	P	O	E	I	P	N	I
G	U	N	D	O	R	E	L	H	L	G	Z	E	C	C
R	R	I	M	T	T	A	C	E	N	U	E	N	R	E
E	A	H	C	T	S	N	V	S	V	W	F	S	E	A
N	B	E	A	T	A	E	O	A	B	E	I	E	A	R
E	L	B	I	S	I	V	T	C	L	E	L	R	S	S
E	E	C	O	N	D	U	C	T	I	O	N	S	E	U

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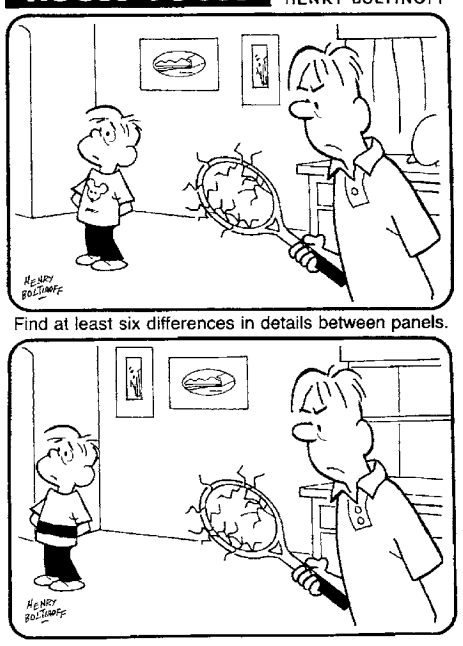
Analog, Anchored, Batteries, Behind, Concha, Conduction, Contour, Custom, Designs, Device, Digital, Dispenser, Durable, Ears, Electroacoustic, Energy, Fits, Hear, Horn, Implant, Increase, Levels, Losses, Loud, Make, Metal, Mini, Models, Noise, Pinna, Plastic, Power, Signal, Silicone, Size, Sound, Speaker, Test, Useful, Variety, Visible, Wear, Wire

Yesterday's Answer: Dedicate

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 90 x 26 puzzles, with 75 of those large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total each. U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Boy's shirt is different. 2. Pictures are rearranged. 3. Button added to man's shirt. 4. Window replaces curtains. 5. Picture on table is missing. 6. Boy is closer to doorway.

Wishing Well®

4	6	8	7	3	4	5	8	3	7	8	3	5
F	J	E	O	S	A	S	V	W	T	O	E	O
7	8	2	8	2	7	6	7	8	3	8	3	5
H	L	J	V	O	E	O	R	I	E	N	T	L
3	5	3	2	6	8	3	2	4	5	7	3	8
S	I	U	Y	B	G	C	F	M	T	S	C	S
6	3	7	4	3	4	8	3	8	7	2	5	2
S	E	E	E	S	I	U	S	C	N	R	U	O
5	4	5	2	5	2	4	5	8	7	4	8	6
D	S	E	M	I	T	Y	S	C	V	O	E	E
2	7	4	2	5	8	4	7	5	7	2	4	6
E	Y	U	E	O	S	R	Y	K	O	N	S	C
7	8	6	2	6	2	6	2	6	5	2	6	5
U	S	U	A	R	G	I	E	T	A	R	Y	Y

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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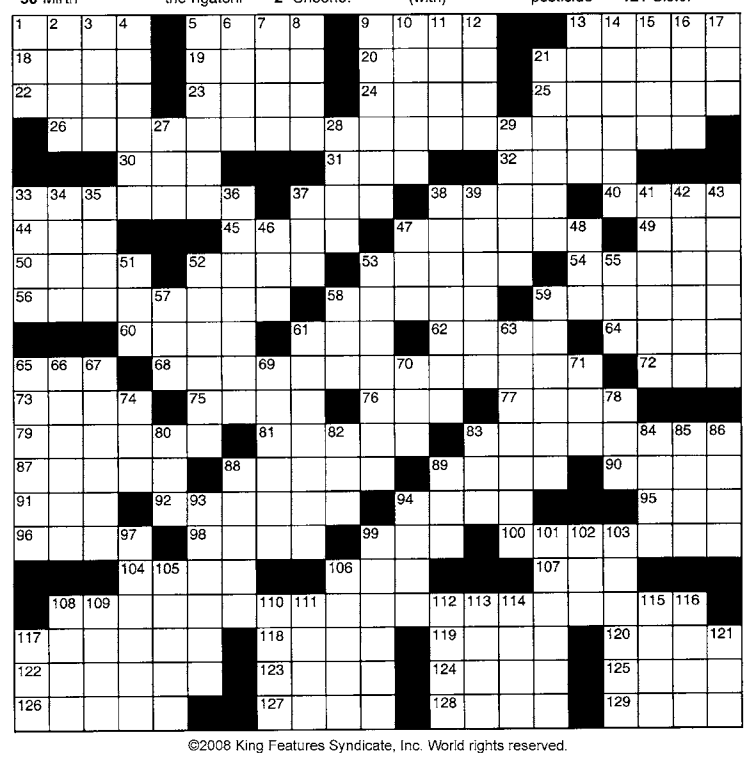
Super Crossword — CLONES

ACROSS
1 News bit
5 Billboard
9 Request an encore
13 Flying Pan?
18 Praise passionately
19 Singer Guthrie
20 Top-notch
21 Pit
22 "— It Up" ('73 hit)
23 A roaring success?
24 Nary a soul
25 Actress Andress
26 Start of a remark by Laurence J. Peter
30 Unfashionable
31 Castilian cry
32 "— and shine!"
33 Part 2 of remark
37 "Golden Girl" McClanahan
38 Read quickly
40 Spellbound
44 Generation
45 McGregor of "Trainspotting"
47 Company
49 Hot off the press
50 Mirth
52 Tennis legend
53 Kanga's creator
54 Crafter's need
56 Anderson's "Tea and —"
58 Shucks
59 "Beagle" passenger
60 — Spumante
61 Lout
62 "State Fair" state
64 Etta of the comics
65 Commercials
68 Part 3 of remark
72 Actor Fernando
73 Learning method
75 Grant or Elwes
76 Youngster
77 Emulated Pinocchio
79 Winter wear
81 Milo of "Ulysses"
83 Malamutes and huskies
87 Poe crow
88 More owlish
89 Coat material
90 Singer Amos
91 Relished the rigatoni
92 Ullman or Goid
94 Flicka's foot
95 Chum
96 Harper of "Tender Mercies"
98 Adequate
99 Understanding
100 Part 4 of remark
104 Lug
106 Actress Zadora
107 TV's "Have — Will Travel"
108 End of remark
117 Infantry action
118 Cheeseboard choice
119 Landed
120 Bearing
122 Like Corn Belt soil
123 Congenial
124 — list
125 Beige
126 "The Threepenny Opera" star
127 Antlered animal
128 Out-of-this-world org.
129 Meat cut

DOWN
1 April initials
2 "Cheerio!"
3 Sinister
4 Wine variety
5 Greet the general
6 Rainbow goddess
7 Whipped-cream serving
8 Hendryx or Gaye
9 Wicked thing?
10 At large
11 — May Wong
12 Jury member
13 Knitting stitches
14 Less demanding
15 Part of Micronesia
16 Colleague of 101 Down
17 Rug type
21 Like a Vermont village
27 "What?"
28 It may be common
29 Rub out
33 Packs groceries
34 "The — Dachshund" ('66 film)
35 Swarm (with)
36 New York university
37 — Dawn Chong
38 Made mucky
39 Faultfinder
41 Response
42 Clothing category
43 Jacksonian bill
46 Kid's query
47 Hodges of baseball
48 Loser's locale
51 Antipollution grp.
52 Storm
53 Winter wear
55 Joan Van —
57 Lava particles
58 "Bali —"
59 '73 Elton John hit
61 Ancient epic
63 Prosperous
65 Genesis peak
66 Contribute
67 Ranges
69 Beethoven symphony
70 Air safety org.
71 Nugent or Knight
74 Poetic preposition
78 Banned pesticide
80 Picnic pest
82 "Yo!"
83 — Canals
84 Klutz's cry
85 Mardi —
86 Farm feature
88 Rouse
89 Finished first
93 Act like the Earth
94 "— Wave" ('63 hit)
97 Comic Kaye
99 "Trees" poet
101 Author Christie
102 Word with fruit or Stanley
103 Crown covering
105 Florida city
106 Locale
108 Knight time
109 Muscat's nation
110 Be inclined
111 Magnus or McClurg
112 "Laugh-In" name
113 Literary pseudonym
114 Pine for
115 Puerto —
116 Garr of "Mr. Mom"
117 "Silent" president
121 Sister



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: In area, what is the largest country in the world that borders on only one other country?
2. MOVIES: What art is featured in the movie "The Red Shoes"?
3. GAMES: How many letters are drawn to begin a game of "Scrabble"?
4. SCIENCE: What is the study of cells called?
5. LANGUAGE: What is a quidnunc?
6. TELEVISION: Who was Mary's best friend and neighbor in "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"?
7. HISTORY: Which city hosted the 1936 Summer Olympics?
8. AUTOMOBILES: What was the make, year and model of the car in The Beach Boys' hit song "Little Deuce Coupe"?
9. LITERATURE: What are the first names of "The Brothers Karamazov"?
10. MUSIC: Who performed the hit song "Maybellene" in 1955?

Answers
1. Canada
2. Ballet
3. Seven
4. Cytology
5. Busybody
6. Rhoda
7. Berlin
8. 1932 Ford coupe
9. Ivan, Dmitri and Alexei
10. Chuck Berry

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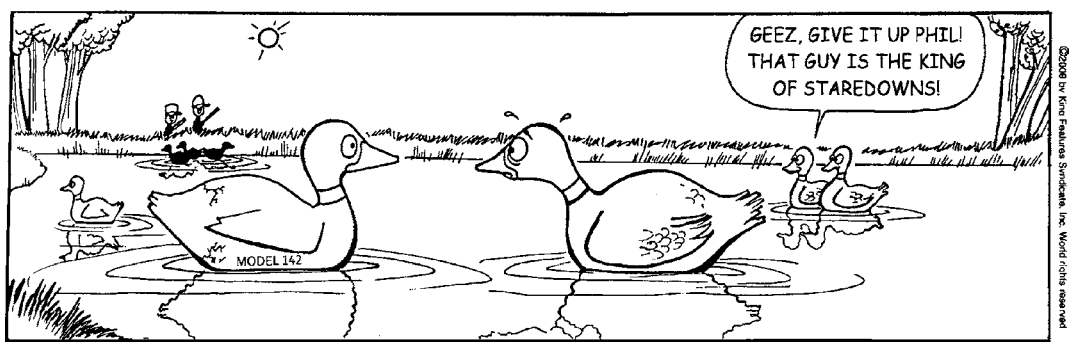
Saturday's Answers

POPEYE
HEY EISMAN!
IT DOES!
NO,IT DON'T!
SEEMS LIKE EVER'THIN' I SEZ ENDS IN AN ARGYMENT.
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY...
...IN A LOVING RELATIONSHIP WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO STATE OUR VIEWS IN AN ADULT MANNER
...YOU PRESENT YOUR VIEW AS YOU SEE IT, AND THEN I PRESENT MY VIEW
YEH, BUT WOT HAPPENS IF WE STILL CAN'T AGREE?
THEN, AGAIN IN A VERY ADULT MANNER...
... WE COMPROMISE!
HOW DUZ WE DO THAT?
VERY SIMPLE...
YOU ADMIT YOU'RE WRONG THEN I FORGIVE YOU!
HEY EISMAN
www.kingfeatures.com

Amber Waves — by Dave T. Phipps


GEEZ, GIVE IT UP PHIL! THAT GUY IS THE KING OF STAREDOWNS!
MODEL 142
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The Spats — by Jeff Pickering

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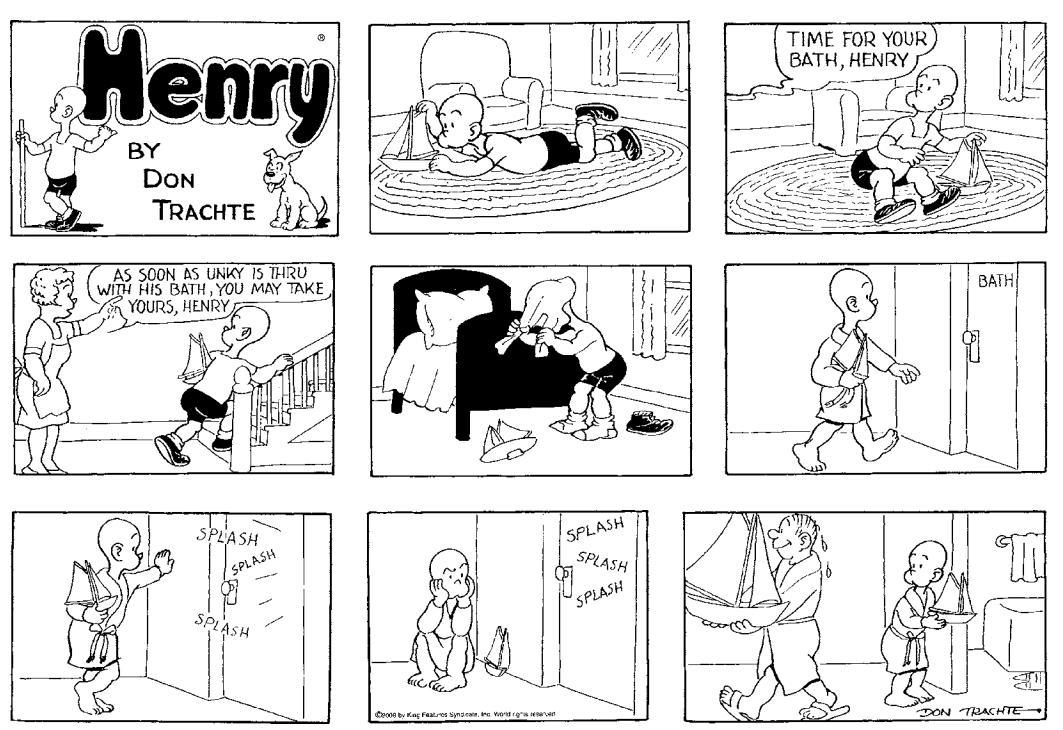

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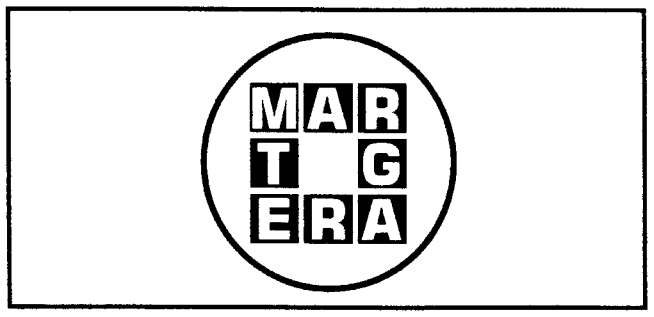

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235- NEWS

Favre says he's ready to help the Jets win

CLEVELAND (AP)—Brett Favre held up his new green jersey, hoping he made the right decision. "To a certain degree, I don't know what I'm getting into," he said. Favre's summertime soap opera ended Wednesday night when the Green Bay Packers traded their iconic quarterback after 16 seasons to the New York Jets, who haven't had a star of No. 4's stature since the days Joe Namath was slinging passes.

"I'm here for one reason. Not to do commercials, Broadway all those things," Favre said Thursday after joining New York for its exhibition opener in Cleveland. "I'm here to help the Jets win."

It's not certain when the three-time MVP will be ready to play. But he assured it will be soon.

"I'm a little out of shape, compared to the other guys," said Favre, who winked while saying he looked forward to his first conditioning test with the Jets. "The last 24 hours have been crazy. This offseason has been bizarre. But I'm excited by this opportunity."

Five months after a tearful goodbye to a Hall of Fame career, Favre, who won a Super Bowl title and set all sorts of records in 16 seasons before his acrimonious split with the Packers, is starting over.

He's now part of a Jets team which went 4-12 last season and has been reduced to second-stringer status in New York behind the Super Bowl champion Giants.

Dressed casually in cargo shorts, a gray T-shirt and new white baseball cap bearing a green "NY" logo, Favre arrived at Browns Stadium a little after 6 p.m.

On his way to the Jets locker room, he recalled a few previous visits to Cleveland with the Packers before meeting with New York coach Eric Mangini, who is a year younger than his new QB.

Favre was then joined by Jets chairman and CEO Woody Johnson and general manager Mike Tannenbaum. During his drawn-out divorce with the Packers, Favre said he had been reluctant to speak with Tannenbaum because he was certain the GM would be able to sell him on joining the Jets.

"He's convincing," Favre said, drawing a smile from Tannenbaum. "I know this team had a lot of talent."

Before the Jets received the opening kickoff, Favre and his new backup, Kellen Clemens, talked briefly on the sideline. Favre clutched a card containing New York's offensive sets and after each snap, he discussed what transpired with quarterback Brett Ratliff, who in an instant went from raw rookie to teaching one of the game's greats.

AP

Brett Favre holds up his new New York Jets jersey at Cleveland Browns Stadium before an NFL exhibition football game between the New York Jets and Cleveland Browns Thursday, Aug. 7, 2008, in Cleveland.

Favre is eager to put his messy breakup with Green Bay behind him and so, too, are the Packers.

"It's like a marriage that ends," Green Bay president Mark Murphy said. "It happens. Neither party is at fault."

That was Favre's read as well.

"I think we're probably both at fault," he said. "I'm not going to blame one side or the other. A lot of things happened this season, a lot of shocking things. But at this point it's irrelevant."

For the moment, Favre brings the Jets publicity and perhaps a better chance to compete in the AFC East. His preference was to be traded inside the NFC North, preferably to Minnesota. When it became apparent the Packers wouldn't do that, Favre was open to about anything to keep playing.

It only took a minute for him to be a hit in New York.

Already, his jersey is being scooped up by Jets fans who awakened Thursday morning to the news that the Mississippi country boy with the cannon right arm is on his way to the big city and its bright lights.

Told that 3,000 new jerseys had been sold online, he joked, "That's all?"

Until the deal was announced, it appeared the 38-year-old might be on his way to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. But the Jets, who went to camp with Chad Pennington and Clemens battling to be the starter, persisted and landed Favre for a fourth-round draft pick in 2009.

Pennington, benched midway through last season, was released Thursday afternoon.

A draft pick is hardly a steep price for a player who holds league records in career yards (61,655), touchdowns (442), wins (160) and hasn't missed a start in 275 consecutive games.

"We wish him the best," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "There's no ill feelings. He has a positive reputation within this organization."

New York gave up a conditional pick for Favre. According to NFL.com, the selection would turn into a third-rounder if Favre plays in 50 percent of the plays this season, a second-rounder if he plays in 70 percent and the Jets make the playoffs, or a first-round pick if he plays in 80 percent and the Jets make it to the Super Bowl.

The Jets are hoping Favre can bring them some of the magic he created at Lambeau Field, a place where the sight of him dropping back into the pocket on a frozen Sunday and rocketing a ball downfield is as etched in Packers lore as legendary coach Vince Lombardi walking the sidelines.

Favre is coming off one of his most productive seasons, one during which he answered any doubts about whether he still had game. He passed for 4,155 yards, his most since 1998, and had 28 TDs with 15 interceptions. The arm strength was still there, and so was his ability to improvise and make something of nothing.

"I hope I can play at the level that I've always played at," he said. "There's no guarantees. There have never been any guarantees for me. It's football and anything can happen."

He led the Packers to the NFC championship, where they lost to the Giants in overtime. Favre's final pass was intercepted, setting up New York's winning field goal. That pick, a blemish on an otherwise brilliant season, may have haunted him and driven Favre back onto the field.

"I always wanted to be a Packer and I think I always will be a Packer," he said. "I'm not a traitor, never will be. It's business. It's the way it works. I gave everything I could possibly give. I hope the Jets fans see the same thing."

In New York, Favre will step behind an offensive line rebuilt during the offseason by the additions of free agents Alan Faneca and Damien Woody. He'll have wide receivers Laveranues Coles and Jerricho Cotchery as his primary targets. He's got a new playbook to learn quickly, and in the media capital of the work, he going to have to deal with more attention than he ever imagined.

"I haven't played in New York. I'm a South Mississippi boy, but I know how tough the city can be and I know how great it can be," he said. "It can be as good as you want to make it."

After leaving the podium, Favre was asked if he would commit to New York for more than one year.

"We'll see," he said.

Karlsson, Jeev Singh take early lead at PGA

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—The PGA Championship looked a lot like the U.S. Open, with only seven players under par when darkness finally covered Oakland Hills on Thursday and put "The Monster" to sleep.

It sounded like a U.S. Open, too.

"There's only one guy who's going to like this place by the end of the week," Ben Curtis said.

Jeev Milkha Singh and Robert Karlsson found it agreeable enough after each shot 2-under 68 in the pleasant morning conditions, before thunderstorms stopped play for 90 minutes in the afternoon. Andres Romero of Argentina was 2 under through 16 holes, the only late starter under par and among 18 players who did not finish the first round.

Kenny Perry finished the round, but he won't finish the tournament. Playing in a major for the first time this year, Perry withdrew after a 79 because of an eye injury.

The calendar says August. It sure seemed like June, with firm fairways, thick rough, hard greens and plenty of opinions.

"A great test of golf and patience," Singh said.

"It was a real beast today," said Ernie Els, who overcame a double bogey after the rain delay to shoot 71.

It was easy to lose patience on a course that was punishing from the opening tee shot to the final putt. The rough is the thickest for a U.S. major this year, the Donald Ross greens at Oakland Hills are as frightening as Augusta National and the scoring chipped away at the PGA Championship's recent reputation as being the major to make birdies.

"The course is 7,500 yards long, the greens are firm and the pins are tucked away," Lee Westwood said after finishing with six straight pars to salvage a 77. "They are sucking the fun out of the major championships when you set it up like that.

"I sound as if I'm moaning—which I am—but it's a great shame," he said. "It's a fantastic golf course. They are great greens and they are playable. But there is no need to play it as it is."

Such comments typically are reserved for a U.S. Open, and the similarities didn't stop there. The rough is so thick that players rarely reached the green after missing the fairway, and caution was required for every putt on greens that became so crispy in pleasant sunshine that tournament officials hosed down three of them throughout the day.

Even so, the best golf was rewarded.

Sergio Garcia struck the ball solid as ever, holed one long putt, limited his mistakes and joined a group at 69 that included Billy Mayfair, Ryder Cup hopeful Sean O'Hair and Ken Duke.

Phil Mickelson was in three bunkers before he reached his second green (No. 11), was 2 over for his round and somehow managed a 70. He made only eight pars, but among his five birdies was a 35-foot putt down the scary slope on the 16th, followed by a 4-iron that rolled within 18 inches for a birdie on the 238-yard 17th.

"I'm just happy to have shot even par today," he said.

Anthony Kim overcame five bogeys with an eagle on the par-5 second hole that carried him to a 70, joining the likes of former U.S. Open champion Angel Cabrera, Rod Pampling and Michael Allen, the last alternate into the field.

Karlsson, the only player to finish in the top 10 at all three majors this year, opened the fourth one with a shot that bounded off a cart path over the first green and led to double bogey. He answered with three straight birdies and reached 4 under for his round until missing the green for bogeys on 14 and 15 and settling for a 68.

How does someone start with a double bogey and not lose his cool, much less his mind?

"Try to remember that I actually can play golf, even though it didn't look like that on the first hole," Karlsson said. "My caddie said, 'Remember, we played with Tiger in the U.S. Open.' And I think he took 6 down the first hole pretty much every day. So you can shoot a good round from here as well."

But such rounds were hard to find.

Air pollution shrouds Beijing on eve of Olympics

AP
Tourists walk through Beijing's Tiananmen Gate as a Beijing Olympics logo is seen through hazy skies in Tiananmen square Sunday July 27, 2008.

BEIJING (AP)—The wall of gray haze around the National Stadium and across the city cut visibility down to a mile. On the eve of opening ceremonies, Beijing's polluted air took center stage Thursday as the most visibly pressing problem for Olympic organizers who had promised to clean up the Chinese capital.

Despite China's enormous attempts to improve the air quality in the run-up to the Summer Games, the stubbornly thick haze that covered the city illustrated how difficult and elusive a target clear skies can be. In the end, it will come down to the wild card of weather: rain and wind.

"I hoped that the measures could have more effect than they had in the last week," said Zhu Tong, an associate professor at Peking University's College of Environmental Science and Engineering who has been advising the government on pollution issues.

"Unfortunately, we had meteorological conditions that weren't good for clearing up the sky. So the stagnant air in Beijing has helped pollutants accumulate. I really hope in the next couple weeks, we'll have conditions that will help us clear up the sky."

The forecast for Friday, the official opening ceremony for the games, was overcast skies with a slight chance of showers in the afternoon, China's meteorological agency said. But relief may come by the weekend, with a prediction of moderate rain that could help wash out pollutants.

On Thursday, Beijing's air pollution index was recorded at 96, which came close to exceeding the national level for acceptable air. Levels between 51-100 are considered moderate pollution, and anything over 100 is harmful to sensitive groups, including children and the elderly.

The Associated Press has been compiling its own pollution data since mid-July, recording snapshot readings of Beijing's worst pollutant—tiny dust particles known as particulate matter 10.

The independent spot checks collected from the Olympic Green, the main sports thoroughfare, showed that, even though there are dramatic ups and downs, PM 10 concentrations were often much higher than what the World Health Organization considers healthy. On Friday, AP readings showed a PM 10 concentration of 373 micrograms per cubic meter—far above the WHO guidelines for healthy air of 50 micrograms per cubic meter.

The notoriously dirty air in this megacity of 17 million has been a leading concern since Beijing won the bid for the Olympics in 2001. China has poured 140 billion yuan—$20 billion—into "greening" the city, including doubling the number of subway lines, retrofitting factories with cleaner technology and building urban parks. But environmental efforts have often been outpaced by constant construction and increased traffic.

To help ensure clean air for the Olympics, Beijing officials imposed drastic measures in mid-July, including pulling half the city's 3.3 million vehicles off the roads, halting most construction and closing dozens of factories.

Environmental officials say the measures are having an impact, noting a 20 percent drop in major pollutants in July, compared with the same time last year. However, it's clear the sweeping measures have failed to guarantee the crystalline skies China hoped to showcase. Instead, the past three weeks have been marked by extremes - going from pea soup haze to swirling blue skies, often after strong winds or a downpour.

Athletes participating in the Aug. 8-24 games have raised concerns from the start about the impact of the city's pollution on their health and their performance, with many choosing to train outside of Beijing.

Those concerns were again highlighted when four members of the U.S. cycling team wore face masks as they walked off the airplane when they arrived this week. They later apologized.

International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge praised China on Thursday for doing everything "feasible and humanly possible" to combat air pollution, and said conditions will be safe for athletes to compete.

Rogge reiterated that outdoor endurance events, such as the marathon, could be postponed or rescheduled if smog levels are too high. The IOC will monitor the air quality on an hourly basis at 21 reporting stations and receive 72-hour weather forecasts. Heat and humidity could also be a factor during the games.

Wright leads Mets in 5-3 win over Padres

NEW YORK (AP)—David Wright hit a two-out, two-run homer in the ninth inning after the Mets bullpen blew another late lead for Johan Santana, lifting New York to a 5-3 victory over the San Diego Padres on Thursday.

Santana, just 9-7 in his first season with the Mets, left with a 3-1 lead in the eighth. It was the sixth time in 24 starts this season that the bullpen cost him a potential win, and in five of those the collapse came in the ninth inning. He has eight no-decisions, and in seven of those allowed two runs or fewer.

Wright's drive off Heath Bell (6-5) was his 21st of the season and came after he committed base running blunders in each of the first two games of the series and a costly error in New York's 4-2 loss Wednesday night.

Marlins 3, Phillies 0

At Philadelphia, Chris Volstad tossed six sharp innings and combined with four relievers on a four-hitter, helping Florida take two of three from the National League East leader Philadelphia.

Volstad (3-2) didn't allow a hit until pitcher Cole Hamels lined a single to center with two outs in the fifth. The 21-year-old right-hander gave up three hits and walked four.

Joe Nelson worked the seventh, Arthur Rhodes and Matt Lindstrom combined for three outs in the eighth, and Kevin Gregg finished for his 25th save in 31 chances.

Hamels (9-8) again was a hard-luck loser. The left-hander allowed three runs—two earned—and seven hits in 6 1-3 innings, striking out seven. He hasn't won since July 3.

Dodgers 4, Cardinals 1

At St. Louis, Clayton Kershaw worked seven dominant innings and Manny Ramirez homered for the fourth time in six games with Los Angeles, which averted a three-game sweep to St. Louis.

Ryan Ludwick's consecutive home run streak ended at five games, which tied a Cardinals record, after he went 1-for-3 with a single, two strikeouts and a walk.

The 20-year-old Kershaw (2-3), the seventh overall pick of the 2006 draft, allowed only three singles while matching his season best with seven strikeouts and working around four walks. The seven-inning stint was the deepest he's gone by a full inning in 12 career starts.

Nationals 6, Rockies 3, 1st game
Nationals 6, Rockies 3, 2nd game

At Denver, Lastings Milledge homered twice in the opener and finished the day with five hits and five RBIs to help Washington sweep a doubleheader from Colorado by identical scores.

The Nationals got strong starts from Odalis Perez (5-8) and Jason Bergmann (2-8), who took a shutout into the eighth inning of Game 1 for his first win in nearly three months.

Joel Hanrahan saved both games, giving him three saves this season.

The Nationals were 18-37 on the road before taking three of four at Coors Field. Matt Holliday, Yorvit Torrealba and Garrett Atkins homered for Colorado.

Just off the disabled list, Jeff Francis (3-8) lost his first start since June 28. In the nightcap, the Nationals roughed up Ubaldo Jimenez (8-10), who was 6-1 in his previous seven starts and entered with a 14-inning scoreless streak.

Astros 7, Reds 4

At Cincinnati, Hunter Pence hit a three-run homer and Roy Oswalt improved to 21-1 against Cincinnati as Houston sent the Reds to their third straight loss.

Carlos Lee went 3-for-3 and drove in two runs, and Miguel Tejada and Lance Berkman also had three hits each to help Oswalt (9-8) win his sixth straight start against Cincinnati. He pitched six shutout innings before giving up a run in the seventh—his last inning.

Josh Fogg (2-4) allowed eight hits and six runs in four innings, the big blow coming on Pence's three-run shot during a four-run third.

Braves 6, Diamondbacks 4

At Phoenix, Mark Kotsay homered and Charlie Morton threw seven shutout innings to help Atlanta beat Arizona for its fourth win in 13 games.

Morton (3-5) allowed five hits over seven innings for his first victory since July 12. Morton walked one and struck out four. Mike Gonzalez went 1 1-3 innings for his fifth save.

Mark Reynolds homered and Arizona starter Yusmeiro Petit (1-3) allowed two runs on four hits and struck out six for the Diamondbacks, who have lost two straight and saw their lead in the NL West slip to 1 1/2 games.¤

Marines 2, Rays 1

At Seattle, Raul Ibanez lined a pitch from Dan Wheeler inside the right-field foul pole, Seattle's first game-ending home run in its lost season, and the Mariners beat the American League East-leading Tampa Bay Rays.

The Rays dropped to 23-29 on the road, where 29 of their final 48 games will be played. The Rays are 45-17 at home, the home-road disparity the biggest in the major leagues. Their division lead was trimmed to 2 1/2 games over idle Boston and 5 1/2 over the New York Yankees.

J.J. Putz (5-4) escaped trouble in the ninth and Felix Hernandez allowed just four hits and one run in eight innings for Seattle, which won for just the fourth time in 57 games when trailing after seven innings.

Wheeler (2-5) and the bullpen couldn't help the Rays after a strong performance by Andy Sonnanstine, who went to a three-ball count just once over the first six innings. Sonnanstine retired 17 consecutive batters after a double by Jose Lopez leading off the second until Lopez singled with two outs in the seventh.

Wladmir Balentien doubled and fellow rookie Bryan LaHair singled off Sonnanstine to begin the eighth. No. 9 hitter Yuniesky Betancourt then tied the game on a sacrifice fly.

Yankees 3, Rangers 0

At Arlington, Texas, Mike Mussina pitched seven sharp innings for his 15th win and New York salvaged a four-game split with Texas.

Mussina (15-7) shut down the highest-scoring offense in the majors, matching Cleveland's Cliff Lee for most wins in the American League. Mariano Rivera pitched a perfect ninth for his career-best 28th consecutive save this season.

It was Mussina's fifth victory in seven starts. The 39-year-old right-hander gave up eight hits, struck out six and stayed unbeaten in his last seven road outings.

Derek Jeter had three hits and drove in two runs, including a solo homer in the first.

The Yankees won for the second consecutive night and moved within three games of idle Boston in the AL wild-card race, while the Rangers dropped to 3 1/2 games behind New York.

Tigers 8, White Sox 3

At Chicago, Miguel Cabrera and Curtis Granderson homered and Ryan Raburn made a nice catch to shut off a late Chicago rally, helping Detroit snap a six-game skid.

Zach Miner (6-4) allowed seven hits and two runs—one earned—in six innings. Fernando Rodney got the final four outs to get his second save in six chances and just the 23rd in 43 opportunities for Detroit's struggling bullpen.

Magglio Ordonez had a two-run triple in the ninth to help put it away.

Javier Vazquez (8-10) threw a season-high 122 pitches, gave up eight hits and five runs in seven innings.

Blue Jays 6, Athletics 4

At Toronto, A.J. Burnett won his fourth straight start and Toronto extended Oakland's losing streak to 10 games.

Joe Inglett drove in the go-ahead run when he was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded, helping Toronto finish a four-game sweep. Burnett (14-9) allowed four runs in six innings.

Winless since July 27, the A's have dropped seven straight series and are a major league-worst 2-17 since the All-Star break. The last time Oakland had a losing streak this long was a 12-game skid that began with nine straight losses in September 1995 and continued with three more defeats in April 1996. The A's also lost 12 consecutive games in April 1994.

BETTER

From Page 28

three records in the process," the nomination from Northern Marianas Athletics read.

The federation added that officials from Australia, New Zealand, and various Pacific Islands are all in admiration with Bennett's accomplishments and her potential.

Male Student Athlete for June was Trevor Ogumoro after the Kagman High School student won a silver and a bronze in the Oceania Championships.

Ogumoro finished second in the under-18 octathlon with 3,256 points and third in the high jump with a leap of 1.60m. He also wound up sixth best in the long jump (5.61m) and the triple jump (10.82m).

Last but certainly not the least, the CNMI's most bemedaled athlete in the Oceania Grand Prix and Oceania Championships was Jacque Wonenberg after the 16-year-old raked in one gold, one silver, and two bronze medals.

For her efforts, she bagged Female Student Athlete of the Month.

Wonenbrg came in first in the pentathlon with 3,455 points, got a silver while being part of the CNMI 4x100m relay team, and earned bronzes in the long jump (4.79m) and triple jump (9.59m). Incidentally, both jumps were new CNMI national records.

She also wound up fourth in the 100m hurdles. She established a new CNMI national record in the prelims when she tackled the event in 16.40.

"The 16-year-old may have lost the title as Queen of Sprints in the CNMI, but she is clearly the best all-around female athlete in Micronesia. Jacque won our first and only gold medal in the history of Oceania athletics [in pentathlon], amassing 3,455 points to edge [out] her competitor from Tonga," part of NMA's nomination read.

Kabiriel, Bennett, Wonenberg, and Ogumoro got the plum during a meeting held Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Representatives of sports associations making up NMASA actually voted to accept NMA's nominations despite the selections coming in a month late.

NMASA, according to the sports governing body's president Michael White, didn't have a meeting last July because it failed to reach a quorum.

TENORIO

From Page 28

ging both fighters to mix it up at center ring.

The first round was more like a feeling out and sizing up period for Tenorio and Namauleg, as both fighters kept their distance from one another, contented with just throwing occasional jabs here and there.

Action picked up in the second with Namauleg rushing and sneaking in swooping uppercuts. Tenorio, meanwhile, used her superior footwork to dodge Namauleg's bombs and was also successful in landing jabs to the body and head of her opponent.

Things got a bit testy between the two ladies when Tenorio and Namauleg, instead of boxing, tried to shove each other resulting in the latter stumbling a couple of times, with Ravilla careful to alert the judges that it was not due to a punch.

Both fighters were visibly tired after the first two three-minute rounds and it showed with Tenorio and Namauleg taking their time to get up from their corners at the start of the third and final round.

Moreover, at one point in the final three minutes of the contest, Namauleg retreated to her corner after Ravilla called time and Tenorio also repeatedly tried to catch her breath in between jabs to Namauleg's body.

By the match's conclusion, Tenorio was clearly delivering and landing more shots to the head and body than Namauleg. Tenorio also had an enthusiastic fanbase ringside which kept her going strong.

In the end, the three judges called the fight in Tenorio's favor , 30-26, 30-27, and 29-26.

Predator or Prey was Gorilla Warfare Production's initial foray into the local MMA scene.

The outfit's Jeff Boyer said he would like to thank everyone who made Predator or Prey, which was held at the Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort, a success.

"Gorilla MMA thanks all fight fans for coming to the show, our sponsors for their unwavering support, and our fighters who put on one of the best shows Saipan has seen in a while. They truly deserve most of the credit."

He added that Gorilla MMA will continually endeavor to bring its fans and supporters exciting events which it hopes will increase the exposure the local MMA fighters deserve.

"We'd also like to thank all the independent fighters and fight gyms that pulled it all together, namely Predator Combat Team, Marianas Elite, Trech Tech, UTC, Choke Chain, Dragon Tribe, Zalaka, D.A.T," he said.

US

From Page 28

penalty area that Japanese goalkeeper Shusaku Nishikawa was able to slow, but couldn't keep from trickling over the line in the 47th minute.

This was a welcome change for Holden. He hasn't scored for Houston in 16 Major League Soccer games this season but had three goals in the North American SuperLiga.

"It's always a good feeling to get a goal," Holden said. "MLS is on the side right now. It's great to get a goal not only personally, but to get a win."

A victory was critical for both teams with the more heavily favored Dutch and Nigerians yet to play in Group B.

"It was very important," U.S. midfielder Freddy Adu said. "Now we have to go against Holland, then Nigeria. I couldn't be happier. The guys couldn't be happier. Peter (Nowak, the coach) couldn't be happier."

Marvelle Wynne was critical in creating the U.S. goal, using sheer speed down the right side to get a half step on Yuto Nagatomo and send his low drive into the goal box. Japanese captain Hiroki Mizumoto deflected the ball out to the top of the penalty area, where Holden ran onto it unchallenged.

The Americans entered the game not having scored a goal since a 3-0 victory over Canada in the semifinals of CONCACAF Olympic qualifying. It lost the final to Honduras. The Americans also failed to score against Cameroon and Ivory Coast last week at the ING Cup in Hong Kong.

"It was a relief to get our first goal," American midfielder Robbie Rogers said. "We created a lot of chances and we were dangerous in the final third."

Maurice Edu was a force in the center of the American backline. Normally a midfielder for Toronto FC, he was paired with Michael Parkhurst in the middle of the U.S. defense and repeatedly stymied Japanese threats.

Japan is one of only three teams at the Olympics with a strictly under-23 team and no overage players. Its squad is nearly entirely composed of domestic based players with only Keisuke Honda of Dutch club VVV Venlo and Takayuki Morimoto of Italy's Catania not playing in Japan.

The United States had more possession in the first half but Japan created the more dangerous opportunities. While the crowd appreciated the Americans' passing and dribbling, the Japanese exploited a corner kick and counterattacks.

A short corner kick in the 21st minute resulted in Atsuto Achida's cross through the goalbox that Masato Morishige heeled wide of the far post. The Japanese found space on the American left flank that twice resulted in crosses by Hiroyuki Taniguchi, one in the 40th minute that Wynne had to race in from his right back spot to knock over for a corner.

GOVT

From Page 28

It will be followed by the 8pm nightcap between winless Department of Public Safety and Department of Public Works/ Procurement and Supply.

And with extending the league into September out of the question, Dela Cruz has opted to make the league daily so another twin-bill is set on Tuesday in the 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League.

The Aug. 12 games will have Legislature squaring off against Commonwealth Ports Authority in the first game, which would be followed immediately by the second game pitting Aguaguat against DPS.

Aguaguat will have less than 24 hours to recover from their game against DPS when it squares off against Bank of Guam Express in Aug. 13's first game. It will then be followed by the match between Tinian and Department of Corrections. Aug. 14 will then have the lone match between Autonomous and DOC.

The final playdate of the first week of the revised schedule on Aug. 15 will then feature Autonomous against CPA in the opener and Northern Marianas College against PTI.

Week 2 of the restart schedule will then have DOC-CPA (first game) and PTI-DPW/P&S (second game) on Monday, DCCA-DPW/P&S on Tuesday, Autonomous-Aguaguat and NMC-CPA on Wednesday, DCCA-DPS on Thursday, and Autonomous-DPW/P&S and NMC-DPS on Friday.

The Aug. 25 doubleheader will then have CPA-DPS and Aguaguat-PTI, followed by DCCA-DOC lone game on Aug. 26. Wednesday, Aug. 27, will see a return to a two-game format with Tinian-Aguaguat and Autonomous-NMC locking horns. The final game of the regular reason will be on Aug. 28 when DCCA takes on Legislature.

Dela Cruz has also made available the Aug. 29 schedule for make-up games.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	68	46	.596	_
Boston	66	49	.574	2 1/2
New York	63	52	.548	5 1/2
Toronto	59	56	.513	9 1/2
Baltimore	54	59	.478	13 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	63	50	.558	_
Minnesota	63	51	.553	1/2
Detroit	56	58	.491	7 1/2
Kansas City	53	62	.461	11
Cleveland	49	64	.434	14

West Division

Los Angeles	71	43	.623	_
Texas	60	56	.517	12
Oakland	53	61	.465	18
Seattle	45	70	.391	26 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	62	52	.544	_
Florida	61	54	.530	1 1/2
New York	60	54	.526	2
Atlanta	53	62	.461	9 1/2
Washington	44	71	.383	18 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	69	46	.600	_
Milwaukee	64	51	.557	5
St. Louis	64	53	.547	6
Houston	55	59	.482	13 1/2
Pittsburgh	52	62	.456	16 1/2
Cincinnati	52	64	.448	17 1/2

West Division

Arizona	59	56	.513	_
Los Angeles	57	57	.500	1 1/2
Colorado	52	65	.444	8
San Francisco	48	65	.425	10
San Diego	44	71	.383	15

Yesterday's Games

Toronto 6, Oakland 4
N.Y. Yankees 3, Texas 0
Detroit 8, Chicago White Sox 3
Seattle 2, Tampa Bay
N.Y. Mets 5, San Diego 3
Florida 3, Philadelphia 0
L.A. Dodgers 4, St. Louis 1
Washington 6, Colorado 1st game
Washington 6, Colorado 2nd game
Houston 7, Cincinnati 4
Atlanta 6, Arizona 4

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, Michigan (AP)–Scores Thursday from the first round of the PGA of America-PGA Championship played at the par-70 (35-35), 7,395-yard Oakland Hills Golf Club course:

Note: Play suspended due to darkness with 18 players still on the course. Round will be completed Friday morning.

FIRST ROUND

Robert Karlsson	32-36	68
Jeev Milkha Singh	34-34	68
Ken Duke	35-34	69
Sergio Garcia	34-35	69
Billy Mayfair	34-35	69
Sean O'Hair	34-35	69
Anthony Kim	33-37	70
Ryan Moore	36-34	70
Phil Mickelson	34-36	70
Rod Pampling	36-34	70
Charlie Wi	35-35	70
Brian Gay	33-37	70
Michael Allen	34-36	70
Angel Cabrera	35-35	70
Briny Baird	35-36	71
Frank Esposito Jr.	36-35	71
Carl Pettersson	35-36	71
Aaron Baddeley	34-37	71
Jim Furyk	37-34	71
Steve Stricker	35-36	71
Richard Green	35-36	71
Peter Hanson	35-36	71
Nicholas Thompson	36-35	71
Brendan Jones	35-36	71
Padraig Harrington	34-37	71
Brandt Snedeker	34-37	71
Henrik Stenson	38-33	71
Steve Elkington	34-37	71
Ernie Els	35-36	71
Mark Calcavecchia	36-35	71
J.B. Holmes	36-35	71
John Mallinger	39-33	72
D.J. Trahan	34-38	72
Paul Casey	35-37	72
Boo Weekley	35-37	72
Paul Azinger	34-38	72
David Toms	35-37	72
Charles Howell III	35-37	72
Retief Goosen	33-39	72
Rory Sabbatini	38-34	72
Alastair Forsyth	38-35	73
Steve Marino	38-35	73
Pat Perez	38-35	73
Simon Dyson	37-36	73
Geoff Ogilvy	37-36	73
Rich Beem	37-36	73
Niclas Fasth	36-37	73
Miguel Angel Jimenez	35-38	73
Steve Flesch	37-36	73
Ben Curtis	40-33	73
Rocco Mediate	36-37	73
Michael Campbell	34-39	73
Jay Haas	35-38	73
Justin Rose	37-36	73
Paul Goydos	37-37	74
Daniel Chopra	36-38	74
Camilo Villegas	38-36	74
Peter Lonard	37-37	74
Graeme McDowell	35-39	74
Justin Leonard	37-37	74
Nick O'Hern	38-36	74
Steve Lowery	36-38	74
Tim Weinhart	37-37	74
Tom Lehman	38-36	74
Heath Slocum	40-34	74
John Daly	38-36	74
Mark Brooks	35-39	74
Ian Poulter	38-36	74
Don Yrene	34-41	75
Corey Pavin	35-40	75
Richard S. Johnson	37-38	75
Stewart Cink	38-37	75
Darren Clarke	38-37	75
Martin Kaymer	39-36	75
Fredrik Jacobson	38-37	75
Bubba Watson	37-38	75
Soren Kjeldsen	37-38	75
Bob Tway	35-40	75
Anders Hansen	37-38	75
Chris Dimarco	38-37	75
Tim Clark	39-37	76
Colin Montgomerie	40-36	76
Robert Allenby	39-37	76
Zach Johnson	39-37	76
Todd Hamilton	37-39	76
Prayad Marksaeng	38-38	76
Peter Hedblom	39-37	76
Hennie Otto	37-39	76
Parker McLachlin	36-40	76
J.J. Henry	39-37	76
Louis Oosthuizen	40-36	76
Kevin Sutherland	34-42	76
Trevor Immelman	40-36	76
Vijay Singh	39-37	76
Stuart Appleby	38-38	76
Fred Couples	39-37	76
Chad Campbell	40-36	76
Mark Brown	40-37	77
Bart Bryant	40-37	77
Hiroyuki Fujita	37-40	77
Ross Fisher	39-38	77
Charl Schwartzel	38-39	77
Lee Westwood	37-40	77
Davis Love III	41-36	77
Brad Martin	39-38	77
Ryan Benzel	37-40	77
Nick Dougherty	38-39	77
Scott Verplank	37-40	77
Adam Scott	39-38	77
Stephen Ames	38-39	77
Soren Hansen	38-39	77
Jeff Martin	39-39	78
K.J. Choi	39-39	78
Chez Reavie	40-38	78
Sonny Skinner	38-40	78
Oliver Wilson	39-39	78
Curt Sanders	36-42	78
Vaughn Taylor	37-41	78
Greg Kraft	41-37	78
Rick Leibovich	41-37	78
Steve Webster	39-39	78
Jerry Kelly	41-38	79
Jim Estes	40-39	79
Tommy Armour III	38-41	79
Toru Taniguchi	42-37	79
Woody Austin	40-39	79
Pablo Larrazabal	41-39	80
Ryuji Imada	39-41	80
Scott Hebert	40-40	80
David Long	41-39	80
Jeff Quinney	37-44	81
Hunter Mahan	42-39	81
Mathew Goggin	41-40	81
Tim Thelen	40-41	81
Cliff Kresge	43-40	83
Brad Dean	42-44	86
Eric Dugas	47-40	87
Kenny Perry	37-42	79

Did Not Finish

Andres Romero
Jonathan Byrd
Scott Strange
John Merrick
James Kingston
Mike Weir
Dean Wilson
Alan Morin
John Senden
Tom Pernice Jr.
Ben Crane
Jyoti Randhawa
George McNeill
Johnson Wagner
Kyle Flinton
Eric Manning
Sam Arnold
Vince Jewell

Leaderboard

	SCORE	THRU
1. Robert Karlsson	2	18
1. Jeev Milkha Singh	2	18
1. Andres Romero	2	16
4. Ken Duke	1	18
4. Sergio Garcia	1	18
4. Billy Mayfair	1	18
4. Sean O'Hair	1	18
8. Anthony Kim	E	18
8. Ryan Moore	E	18
8. Phil Mickelson	E	18
8. Rod Pampling	E	18
8. Charlie Wi	E	18
8. Brian Gay	E	18
8. Michael Allen	E	18
8. Angel Cabrera	E	18

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Air pollution shrouds Beijing on eve of Olympics

The wall of gray haze around the National Stadium and across the city cut visibility down to a mile.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Favre says he's ready to help the Jets win

Brett Favre held up his new green jersey, hoping he made the right decision. "To a certain degree, I don't know what I'm getting into," he said.

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Better late than never for June awardees

Kabiriel, Bennett, Wonenberg, Ogumoro get June nod

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

ATHLETES of the MONTH

Four athletes from the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix and Oceania Championships got the nod for Athlete of the Month awards for June from the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association.

Veteran Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel won the Male Athlete of the Month award after taking part in a total of 13 events in the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix and Oceania Championships held from June 21 to 28 at the Oleai Track and Field.

Along the way, Kabiriel bagged a silver in the 3,000m steeplechase with a time of 12:20.07, which broke the CNMI national record.

He also qualified in the finals of the 100m hurdles (20.18) and the 400m hurdles (61.74), and took part in the 400m sprint (56.8), and anchored his mixed medley relay team to a runner-up finish.

Kabiriel also competed in the eight-event octathlon and came away with a sixth-best finish.

Yvonne Bennett, meanwhile, took home the Female Athlete of the Month for June after smashing three CNMI national records during the Oceania Grand Prix and Oceania Championships.

The 17-year-old may not have won a medal in the competition but her 26.82 in the 200m, 61.34 in the 400m, and 12.99 in the 100m broke previous Commonwealth bests in the sprint events.

In addition, the Kagman High School student also finished fifth in the 400m in the Oceania Championships with a time of 61.83.

"Though she did not win any medal, she was clearly the most dominant CNMI athlete during the Grand Prix and Oceania Championships. The sprints is the most talent-filled event and she was able to keep up with the top sprinters in the region, being the first female ever in the CNMI to make the finals in the 100m, 200m, and 400m smashing all

See BETTER on Page 26

Tenorio beats Namauleg in first ever boxing match for women

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Last of a three-part series

Soledad "The Rebel" Tenorio made boxing history Saturday night in Predator or Prey when she beat Tara "The Terrible" Namauleg via unanimous decision in the Commonwealth's first-ever women's boxing match.

The Tenorio-Namauleg match provided a welcome respite from the brutality of the 10 mixed martial arts fights, as the over 1,000 fight fans were treated to a more slow-paced competition that had referee James Ravilla sometimes literally beg-

See TENORIO on Page 26

MARK RABAGO

Soledad "The Rebel" Tenorio, right, connects to the head of Tara "The Terrible" Namauleg in the Commonwealth's first-ever women's boxing match held last Saturday during Predator or Prey at the Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

US defeats Japan 1-0 on goal by Stuart Holden

Beijing 2008

TIANJIN, China (AP)—Stuart Holden ended the United States' three-game scoring drought with a goal in the second half, giving the Americans a 1-0 victory over Japan on Thursday in the Olympic opener for both.

The Scottish-born Holden struck a loose ball at the top of the

See US on Page 26

RELATED NEWS
Air pollution shrouds Beijing on eve of Olympics. **PAGE 26**

AP

Hiroyuki Taniguchi, right, of Japan, and Stuart Holden, left, of USA battle for the ball during a Group B Men's soccer match between Japan and the USA at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Tianjin, China, Thursday, Aug. 7, 2008.

Govt/biz caging releases new sked

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Inaugural PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League will be operating on a new schedule starting next week after intermittent power interruption wrought havoc on its old one.

Coordinator Joey Dela Cruz said the roundball competition pitting teams from government agencies and two "guest" squads from the private sector will resume after a two-week hiatus this Monday, Aug. 11, when PTI takes on Department of Community and Cultural Affairs in the 6:30pm opener.

See GOVT on Page 26